

Tomorrow

Secrets of the past The recent discovery of a rich Egyptian tomb has given fresh encouragement to other academics who are searching sites around the world. They believe that they have only just begun to scratch the surface of the ancient world. What great finds are still to be made?



All change A new smooth look from a fashion radical Indoor games Britain meets the USSR at Cosford

Portfolio

Saturday's £28,000 weekly prize in The Times Portfolio competition was shared by three readers: Mrs Ruth Scarratt, of Purley, Surrey, Mr L P Henaghan, of Weymouth, Dorset, and Mr Ian Wilson, of Hemel Hempstead, Herts. The daily prize of £2,000 was shared by Mr E Leigh-Howard, of Knightsbridge, London SW1, and Mr Neil Howard, of Kelghley, Yorkshire.

Obscenity Bill climbdown

Mr Winston Churchill has abandoned his "laundry list" of activities deemed as obscene and not suitable for broadcasting or publication and replaced it with more general guidelines in his Bill designed to extend the scope of the Obscene Publications Act.

Missile offer

President Reagan has proposed removal of intermediate-range nuclear missiles from Europe within three years in a letter to the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev, but also wants the scrapping of Soviet weapons aimed at China and Japan.

Militant fight

The leadership of the Labour Party is preparing for confrontation with the Militant Tendency when the party executive considers on Wednesday disciplinary measures against Liverpool members of the group.

Iran appeased

As Iran buried those who died when an airliner was shot down by the Iraqi, Iranian military successes have alarmed the UN Security Council into drafting a resolution in effect blaming Iraq for the Gulf war.

Prince's plea

The Prince of Wales urged British businessmen to develop closer links between industry and local communities, suggesting they set aside part of their profits for community projects.

Cancer link

Widowhood and other stressful events could predispose some women to breast cancer, a new study says. The extra effort in hiding emotions could weaken their immune system.

Merger talk

Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank, is in merger talks with Exco, the financial conglomerate, which could lead to the creation of a £1 billion group.

Guns proposal

New tactics in the use of firearms by the police should be considered, a confidential report to the Home Secretary says.

£20,000 earners may pay £3bn more in taxes

By Anthony Bevens, Political Correspondent

A Labour government will impose an extra £3,000 million in taxes on the richest million taxpayers, Mr Neil Kinnock said yesterday. An Inland Revenue source said last night that the plan would affect those earning between £20,000 and £25,000 a year and upwards. The Labour leader also said in an interview on the Tyne Tees Television Face the Press programme that he would legislate to make sure that strikers could not be dismissed in pursuit of legitimate industrial action taken after a ballot. Asked how he planned to finance his investment programme, Mr Kinnock said that the money would come from borrowing, by reducing unemployment and by a reimposition of "the tax liability" escaped in the last six years, to the tune of about £3,000 million a year, by the top 3 or 5 per cent of taxpayers. Mr Kinnock said: "It is a question of starting to collect the effective level of tax again from those who are very rich in our society—I mean people in the top 3 or 5 per cent as I have said." The Inland Revenue source said that in this financial year the top 5 per cent of taxpayers, those on a taxable income of more than £16,200, contributed about £1,800 million on the higher rate bands, which were reduced from a limit of 83 per cent to 60 per cent in the 1979 Budget. But Mr Kinnock also said that, while he had no intention of raising the standard rate of tax, he would hope to reduce the tax burden on those earning less than £6,500 a year, about seven million people, many of them part-time workers. He said: "There is a case for scaling down the tax-paying process in such a way as to relieve people on lower incomes. So I'm not saying we don't want to change standard rate, I'm saying we don't want to increase standard rate." The Labour leader said he did not want to make any promises or sign any cheques at the moment, but if it could be done he would like to introduce discriminatory help for those on less than £6,500 a year. Mr Kinnock also reaffirmed Labour's plans to "clear the deck" of all Conservative industrial relations legislation, replacing it with "a framework of positive rights". He said: "What we'll see constructed in place of an industrial relations system that provokes conflict is one that allocates rights and responsibilities and can safely be put in the hands of reasonable people instead of the ruthless and the self-interested and the irrational, which is the purpose that the Conservative legislation now serves." That meant that balloting provisions would "in a variety of forms be retained" and Mr Kinnock said: "Insofar as it encourages rank and file involvement in the decision making and the elections of trade unionism, then it's to be accepted." Asked about the dispute involving News International and Wapping, Mr Kinnock said that a Labour government would ensure "that for the period of a strike you could not terminate people's employment because of that strike, or during that strike." "It's a system of law which operates elsewhere; there's no reason why it couldn't effectively and justly operate in this country."

Union role in BL takeover

By Our Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock yesterday revealed that the workforce of Land Rover and of Freight Rover would be involved in management buy-out plans for British Leyland. The Labour leader said on the Tyne Tees television programme, Face the Press: "The management who are putting together the teams seeking the buy-outs want the direct involvement from day one of the trade unions and workers in those plants. That was made very clear to me on Friday when I visited the Land Rover and Freight Rover management, for instance. 'I'm not going to quote them directly because I don't want to break any confidences, but... they want, from day one, some facility in which the workers can be involved in that buy-out process.' Ironically, Mr Kinnock has also said that he would oppose any kind of British Leyland sale, but a buy-out would be the "least worst" option. With a Sunday Times MORI poll showing yesterday that as many as 90 per cent want Land Rover to stay in British hands, while 77 per cent believe that the Government should insist that it remain British, the political pressure against a General Motors takeover is creating formidable difficulties for Mrs Thatcher. Mr John Biffen, leader of the John Biffen, leader of the Conservative Party, said yesterday in an interview on the BBC television programme, This Week, Next Week, that the hostility aroused by the proposition created a "considerable problem", but that did not mean the idea was mistaken. He said: "The Government, very wisely, is not going to be pressured, I believe that it is sound industrial sense for this country to seek international settings for many of its activities. To rule these out on pure grounds that only British ownership is acceptable, in my mind, is absurd, and I say this as a nationalist." Mr Biffen is a member of the special cabinet committee set up to oversee any possible British Leyland sale. But it is thought that two of his committee colleagues, Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, and Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, both representing Midlands constituencies, are more sensitive to the political pressures. Those pressures were yesterday reinforced in a speech by Mr Edward Heath, the former prime minister, who told a Coventry conference of the Conservative Group for Europe that there was no electoral mandate for the possible sale to General Motors, which he described as unjustified and naive. "The Government will pay dearly if it insists, against the wishes of the British people, in steam-rolling this through", he said. Letters, page 13.

England in danger

England faced the prospect of losing the first Test to the West Indies inside three days when their batting collapsed again at Sabina Park, Kingston, Jamaica, yesterday. Graham Gooch and Tim Robinson were both dismissed for ducks after England had started their second innings 1-0 behind, so undoing all the good work of medium pace bowler Richard Ellison, of Kent. The West Indies had been bowled out for 307, with Ellison taking five for 78, but at lunch, England were 18 for two. David Gower, the captain, trying to find his form, was on eight and Peter Willey, sent in at No 4 because David Smith was suffering from sunstroke, on seven. John Woodcock, page 24.

Football split

Scotland will have a new national football league next season following a decision to break away from the Scottish League by nine leading clubs. It will consist of two or three divisions, and a premier division of 10 clubs, with promotion of one-up and one-down, has been agreed. Hugh Taylor, page 26.

Tories give school vouchers priority

The Conservative Party is planning to go into the next election with a radical new plan for education, including a voucher system which would enable parents to switch their children from state to private schools. Vouchers, which would roughly match the cost of a state education, could be spent instead at private schools. It is even being suggested that the scheme could be given its initial trials in the educationally deprived inner cities, where the vouchers could be spent in a new network of direct grant primary schools. Because the proposals will be fought by the so-called Conservative "wets" and by the Whitehall establishment, the Prime Minister will need all the backing of loyalist ministers and MPs if the plan is to be driven through into the next election manifesto. Nevertheless, it is expected that she will get her way on an issue which is regarded as the highest priority. Senior Conservatives are confident that the next "radical Conservative push" will drive back the frontiers on the state system of education as effectively as the Government has rolled back the state sector of industry. The voucher scheme, which is now being called the credit or access system, was last proposed by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, at the Conservative Party conference in 1982. He linked his proposal with open enrolment, the scheme under which parents are able to switch their children to popular state schools, which are given funds to expand by up to one extra class of entry each year. That plan was effectively sabotaged by official hostility within the Department of Education and Science, but it is intended that the new proposals will be driven through by a determined Secretary of State with the full backing of a manifesto mandate. It is thought, therefore, that Mr Christopher Patten, Sir Keith's current deputy and leading Conservative "wet", Continued on page 2, col 4.



Mr Juan Ponce Enrile, the rebellious Philippines Defence Minister, outside his headquarters yesterday.

People's power breaks siege by Marcos troops

From David Watts, Manila

Filipino people's power triumphed for a moment, over the might of President Marcos's military machine as darkness fell last night. The pride of the Philippines Marines in US-built armoured troop carriers and British Scorpion tanks pulled out of the siege of the Manila police headquarters, prevented from taking any action against the rebellious Defence Minister and Chief of Police by hundreds of thousands of civilians who surrounded the Marines with barricades of buses, sandbags, logs and piles of rubble. Revved-up engines belched clouds of oil smoke as the great camouflaged war machines moved off in the direction of their barracks, and some of their crews surreptitiously gave the opposition sign. President Marcos, meanwhile, was claiming quite the reverse. The military had the rebels cut off and were preventing the passage of troops either in or out of police headquarters, where Mr Juan Ponce Enrile, Mr Marcos's Defence Minister for 17 years, and the Chief of Police, General Fidel Ramos, were holding out, after finding the courage to declare what the rest of the country has known for some time: that Mr Marcos is no longer a legitimate President. In reality the Marines were half a mile from Camp Crame, which was surrounded by a vast wall of protective citizenry, but then Mr Marcos appears more and more out of touch with both reality and truth with each passing day. On television he constantly reiterated his desire that there should be no bloodshed, that no civilians should get hurt, but alternating this with threats to use mortars and artillery as he tried to negoti-

Economy is given twin boost

By Our City Staff

Plunging oil prices and the rise in the pound have given a huge boost to industry in the UK, and the Confederation of British Industry predicts that output should rise sharply over the next four months. The CBI's survey of monthly trends for February shows that over the next four months 24 per cent of firms expect output to rise and only 11 per cent expect it to decline. The survey also indicates that industry's order books have improved from the low level recorded in January. Reflecting this optimism, the London Business School has raised its forecast of Britain's economic growth next year from 2.1 per cent to 2.9 per cent, following the fall in oil prices, and expects inflation to fall below 4 per cent by the middle of this year. The LBS, whose forecast often provides useful clues to thinking in the Treasury, believes the fall in oil prices has removed all scope for tax cuts in the Budget on March 19. The CBI survey is the last to be published by the organization before the Budget. Sir Terence Beckett, the CBI director general, said: "It is vital that industry takes advantage of this tremendous opportunity in export markets." Comment, page 17.

Paper run beats the pickets

By Patricia Clough

The print run of more than four million copies of the News of the World and nearly 1.4 million copies of The Sunday Times left Wapping on Saturday night despite delays caused by a demonstration by about four thousand print workers and sympathizers, News International said yesterday. Five policemen and at least one demonstrator were injured as missiles were thrown in clashes at the gates of the News International plant where the print workers were joined by engineers, electricians and, for the first time, firemen. Forty-seven people were arrested of whom 32 were charged with a variety of offences including assault, criminal damage, threatening behaviour, causing actual bodily harm, and blocking the highway, Scotland Yard said. The rest were cautioned. The demonstration started with a march by about 1,800 printers, led by a brass band, from Fleet Street to Wapping. The departure of the News International lorries was delayed for a couple of hours, but eventually all left and as far as is known reached their destination, the company said. The company however lost 271,000 copies of the News of the World at its Glasgow plant because of mechanical trouble. It printed 927,000 copies. Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour Party leader, defended his decision to boycott News International papers in an article in the News of the World. He said it was "nonsense" to claim that it undermined his commitment to more open government. NI journalists would continue to see Labour's press releases and attend public addresses by Labour politicians. It was also "rubbish" to Continued on page 2, col 2.

Rebels say President's elite force is deserting

From Michael Baynon, Washington

All 13 regional army commanders in the Philippines were giving support to the rebellion against President Marcos, Lieutenant-General Fidel Ramos, chief of the national police, told American television yesterday. Scores of young officers from Mr Marcos's elite guard were deserting him, because they could not stomach orders to arrest fellow officers. "Sizeable elements" from the Army, Navy and Air Force would support any move to remove Mr Marcos from power. President Marcos, also appearing on television, scoffed at the rebellion, saying the leader had only 400 troops. "We are probably in control of 98 to 99 per cent of the military." He also emphasized that he would not step down from office. Mr Juan Ponce Enrile, the Defence Minister, also said a large group of seemingly loyal soldiers were obeying orders reluctantly, but they would not attack anti-Marcos demonstrators. Mr Enrile and General Ramos, speaking from the Ministry of Defence in Manila, where they are leading the rebellion, called on Mr Marcos to leave office peacefully. He could leave the Philippines and live anywhere he wanted. If he refused to go, the two men would continue using "people power" to get him out. Hit list, page 9.

Muscovites expect party to deliver the goods

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The 27th congress of the ruling Soviet Communist Party begins tomorrow under an unprecedented atmosphere of self-criticism by Soviet officials and the media - criticism deliberately encouraged by Mr Gorbachev. Yesterday, as scores of high-level representatives from foreign communist and other left-wing parties arrived in the capital, the official daily Sovetskaya Rossiya said the congress would discuss the need for "drastic changes" in all areas of Soviet life. A front-page editorial predicted that during the meeting the most important held here since 1961 - the Soviet people would be called upon to show "selflessness, persistence, a fearless rejection of mental inertia, of complacency and of everything that has enfeebled its time." Until Mr Gorbachev completes his opening address tomorrow, it will not be known how much of the intense pre-congress debate was rhetoric and how many of the radical suggestions will be ordered into practice by the 18 million or so party members. One senior Soviet source told The Times that the congress would set the tone for the new Soviet Union and everyone was expecting it to lead to substantial changes in the way the country was run. He said the people were backing Mr Gorbachev in his bid to rid the Soviet Union of those who had been living for themselves and not their country. In everyday conversations with Muscovites, there is no mistaking their expectations have been aroused by the pre-congress publicity and sweeping attacks on corrupt and inefficient officials. As one retired Moscow lawyer said - reflecting the new frankness with which foreigners are treated at the bidding of Mr Gorbachev - it is more than time that we want to pension all those bureaucrats who sit at their desks, carving good salaries and interested in nothing but making themselves fat. The new mood was reflected last week by Pravda, which published a long article under the headline "cleaning" covering the calls for party reform which have been flooding into its offices throughout the country. Mr B. Alexeyev, a Muscovite and veteran party member who joined its ranks two years after the 1917 revolution, wrote: "As an old Bolshevik, I think we must establish a party rule to hold periodic purges". But Miss Tatiana Samoilov, the paper's influential letters correspondent, rejected the suggestion by saying the party was already carrying out an enormous task including the cleaning of its own ranks. "It is not a purge, but a cleansing," she said. The letters - whose publication in itself indicated some official backing for their often radical demands - included outspoken attacks of the glaring perks enjoyed by the party elite, such as special budgets, hospitals and closed shops which offer access to much-prized Western goods, mass bribery-taking and calls for more explicit reporting of the punishments meted out to the guilty. The point was taken up again this week by Sovetskaya Rossiya, which carried a series of angry pre-congress letters from ordinary citizens demanding the right to know what decisions were being taken behind closed doors at party and trade union meetings. The paper concluded: "Unfortunately... we know more about the news in any African country than we do about our own home." Stage set, page 8.

HELP US TO HELP THE ELDERLY IN NEED. Help is a large word in our vocabulary. More than ever we depend on voluntary giving to house our growing family of elderly people in MHA residential Homes and Sheltered Housing. Our target is for 2000 old people to be in our care by 1990. This means a busier-than-ever building programme to provide all the extra places. And that costs money. To put it in a nutshell we need £1 every 15 seconds - some £2 million a year. Will you help please? It's urgent! MHA METHODIST HOMES FOR THE AGED. YOUR DONATION CAN PUT NEW LIFE INTO OLD AGE. TO: MHA, Dept 1, FREEPOST, London W12 9LH. I enclose my donation of £10.00. Please send me more information about MHA. Name: Address: MHA, 25 City Road, London EC1Y 1DR. Reg. Charity No. 218504.

Labour is steeled to expel Militant

By Anthony Bevins
Political Correspondent

The Labour leadership is preparing itself for outright confrontation with the Trotskyist Militant Tendency on Wednesday when the party's national executive considers disciplinary action against Liverpool hardliners.

A report from a nine-strong inquiry team is thought to identify more than ten key figures in the Liverpool Militant hierarchy, including Mr Derek Hatton, deputy leader of the council, Mr Tony Mulhearn, president of the district party, and Mr Terry Harrison, deputy president and one of the Tendency's founders.

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, said on *Face the Press* yesterday: "Where we can establish firm evidence for people being part of the Militant Tendency, they will be put out of the party. That's what I've said for a long time; that's what we'll stick to."

The inquiry has been very thorough, the consideration will be very thorough, and the action taken will be very thorough.

But the inquiry report is understood to contain a dissenting section from Miss Margaret Beckett and Mrs Audrey Wise. Mr Tony Benn and Mr Eric Heffer have given notice that they will oppose expulsions on Wednesday.

The meeting will be lobbied by Militant supporters, a protest which may provide graphic evidence of the scale of Trotskyist infiltration into the party.

Although Mr Kinnock believes that a public show of strength is necessary to reassure traditional Labour voters that Liverpool is not an example of Labour in office, any expulsions will be met with a tough, concerted and protracted counter-attack.

Those charged with Militant membership are expected to be asked to attend a further national executive meeting next month, to answer the charges, and if there are any expulsions there will be a final right of appeal to this year's party conference.

Mr Hatton said yesterday: "I am quite prepared to go in any meeting of the national executive committee to answer any so-called allegations."

"So far, all the inquiry has done is spend 60 hours talking 'little tattle'. There has been no suggestion of any evidence at all against any single member of the party in Liverpool. The party in Liverpool certainly opposes any single expulsion that might come out."

Concorde trip to Mexico

Concorde is to fly to Mexico for the first time, taking 100 people for a three-night holiday in Las Brisas, Acapulco. Ninety-nine passengers will pay £3,475, get tickets for the soccer World Cup final, and be accompanied by a celebrity host.

Mr Arthur Britten, News International's Director of Corporate Affairs, said of Mr Kinnock's stance: "We deplore any kind of censorship and that's what it is."

Secret report calls for revised police gun tactics

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Consideration of new tactics in the use of guns by the police is proposed by the Police Complaints Authority in a confidential report to the Home Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd.

It may be that the time has come to set up an inquiry into the advantages and disadvantages of setting up special firearms teams, possibly regional ones, to undertake armed operations, the report says.

The authority is concerned about the present practice, which calls police officers with firearms training from normal duties to take part in armed operations.

That caused the authority to consider whether it was fair and reasonable to expect a policeman to be an ordinary beat officer at one moment and then within a few hours to be a member of a team in a potentially dangerous firearms operation. Arguably, too much was being asked of such an officer.

But Mr Hurd is strongly resisting the idea of setting up elite groups of police officers on permanent firearms duty ready for armed incidents. These are known as SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) squads in the United States.

The authority has said that there should be a fundamental review of police firearms procedure. The intention should be to tighten the rules for the planning and control of armed operations.

The authority expresses concern that there is insufficient planning and reconnaissance, before many armed operations and not enough consideration given to alternative action before arms are issued.

There should be a review of guidelines for the authorization of the use of firearms, with particular reference to raids on family homes. A checklist should be available for senior officers on the planning, command and control of armed operations. It should be issued as Home Office guidance.

The minimal trigger pressures on all handguns should be standardized, and there should be a thorough look at the type of bullet now used. Ballistic experts are worried that it tends to fragment on impact, causing extra damage.

There should be better planning of operations, with information on the layout of premises and whether innocent parties are present. All authorized firearms officers, the report adds, should be subject to regular fitness and medical tests. The amount of initial and refresher training should be increased.

Paper run beats the pickets

Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher, threatened to shut down his two Scottish newspapers and axe 1,950 jobs yesterday unless staff accepted up to 40 per cent job cuts and work changes.

He said he would then restart the Daily Record and Sunday Mail with a smaller workforce in a separate publishing and printing company. He claimed the unions had totally rejected a "survival" plan for his Scottish operations presented last week. It included printing from last night a full-colour Irish edition of *The Mirror* in Glasgow.

In his warning, made in a letter to all staff and published in yesterday's Sunday Mail, Mr Maxwell said that in return for asking for voluntary redundancies and changes in working practices he had offered a 10 per cent pay rise and a guarantee of no compulsory dismissals.

"The inevitable consequences of the rejection of this generous offer are that in order to safeguard the survival of this company we have no alternative but to notify the Department of Employment that we will need to declare redundant between 300 and 400 of our 1,950 workforce."

Mr Maxwell, who also publishes *The Mirror*, Sunday *People*, and Sunday *People*, recently negotiated job cuts and changes in his London and Manchester operations after similar closure threats.

The publisher said there were obvious examples of unnecessary staffing costs. He cited the newspapers' Edinburgh office which had 15 journalists and cost about £500,000 a year to run. "This scandalous overmanning will no longer be allowed to continue."

The Sun had only six journalists to serve the whole of Scotland, he said. Unless agreement was reached quickly the company's structure would be radically changed. Production of the newspapers would be transferred to a new firm, the British Newspaper Printing Corporation (Scotland), and the publishing would be undertaken by the Daily Record and Sunday Mail (1986) Limited.

The printing side would operate at Anderston Quay as a contract operation printing the Daily Record and Sunday Mail and the Irish edition of *The Mirror*. After two additional presses were installed the new company would be seeking work from other newspaper publishers.



The man identified as Captain William Sutton, whose ship allegedly had a cargo of military equipment, with police at Brest.

French hold skipper with arms cargo

By Hugh Clayton

The British captain of a ship alleged to be involved in an attempt to overthrow an African government, thought to be Sierra Leone, was being questioned yesterday after his crew of 12 had been released.

French and British authorities were trying to piece together details of the voyage of the Panama-registered coaster *Silver Sea*. Reports conflicted about the type of military equipment on board and the purpose of the voyage.

Sources in Paris and London suggested a link between the voyage of the *Silver Sea* and opponents of President Joseph Momoh, who came to power last November.

The president said in his inaugural address to the people of Sierra Leone three weeks ago that the country suffered from high rates of inflation and foreign debt. He promised a fight against "economic saboteurs" involved in smuggling, customs evasion and "other business malpractices".

In spite of its economic poverty the country is rich in natural resources, especially diamonds of exceptionally fine quality. The most detailed statement about the *Silver Sea* came yesterday from M Jacques Coumbar, deputy public prosecutor in Brest, where the crew were first questioned.

He said that the 12 released men had British passports, and did not seem to know where their ship was going. They had not been charged because even if they were mercenaries that was not in itself an offence.

M Coumbar rejected reports that the ship had been crammed with heavy weapons, but said that the skipper, named as Mr William Sutton, might face charges of importing undeclared cargo and of breaking laws about concerning the handling of military equipment.

On Saturday, he was flown to Paris from Brest for questioning by French coastguard intelligence agents. But although the first reports about the weapons on board had been exaggerated, it would be wrong to underestimate the significance of the affair.

The 150-foot *Silver Sea*, built on the Clyde more than 25 years ago, set sail from Southampton, but after three days it was forced to make for the French coast in stormy weather last Monday. Coastguard officers who sighted the vessel in a sensitive area near the Brest naval military complex reported later that there were jeeps, uniforms and electronic equipment on board.

Several daggers and small arms belonging to the crew have been seized.

Northern Ireland

IRA gunman shot in attack

A masked gunman shot dead by troops in Londonderry on Saturday night, seconds after a gun attack on a joint Army and police post, was named by the Provisional IRA yesterday as a member of one of its active security units.

Tony Gough, aged 24, from the Shanallow area of the city, was one of two men who fired about thirty high-velocity shots at the Fort George security post.

As the pair drove away in a car registered in the republic, which had been hijacked earlier in Shanallow, an Army foot patrol emerged from a side road.

The patrol commander is believed to have fired a single shot which killed the passenger. The car stopped outside a busy petrol filling station and the driver immediately surrendered to police at a vehicle checkpoint near by. He suffered superficial cuts and shock and yesterday was in custody being questioned by Special Branch detectives.

Gough was found dead in the car, his face still masked. A rifle was recovered. He was the second man to be shot dead by the Army in five days; Francis Bradley, aged 20, was killed on Tuesday night near Castledawson, Co Londonderry.

Mr Tom King, who dismissed troop reinforcement reports.

There are now nine Army battalions in the province, eight on routine postings and the ninth having been sent after Christmas to increase security at police stations thought vulnerable to Provisional IRA mortar attacks.

Army strength in Northern Ireland is 10,200 troops. Some increase might be expected before the threatened loyalist strike next Monday as part of the continuing campaign against the Hillsborough pact.

But less than 1,000 people attended a planned mass rally in the Ulster Hall in Belfast on Saturday night, organized by the Orange Order and intended to mobilize loyalist campaigners against the agreement.

Marcos is forced to lift siege

Continued from page 1

second Marcos press conference in 24 hours. The allegations could well be true. The testimony of Lieutenant-Colonel Marcelino Malahacan, commanding officer of the 16th Infantry Battalion, was certainly convincing enough, as he told of his apparently rather minor part in a plot to take over the palace.

The young colonel said the plot was hatched by a group of young officers "in our belief that this is the only option left to save the republic from a bloody confrontation. If we have to die in the effort it would be better that way, rather than our people dying in the streets. Our intention only was to capture the President and talk to him, force him to resign or send him into exile and invite some people whom we feel are credible to the Filipino people to lead the country back to democracy."

Mr Marcos went on television late last night visibly angered by the day's humiliations and denounced Mr Enrile's "grab for power". "They are insisting that I step down and a junta or council will take over. And who is the chairman of the council? It's very obvious now that Ponce Enrile and Ramos organized the coup d'etat that was to take place on Sunday morning. They want to coerce your President to step down so that Enrile can take over."

Mr Enrile has merely said he does not intend to serve in an Aquino Government. He attacked the soldiers in the southern Philippines who commandeered a Philippine Airlines plane yesterday in an attempt to join the rebel forces but were arrested immediately on arrival at Manila airport, an airline source said (AP reports).

A unit of the Philippine Constabulary had surrounded the BAC111 soon after it landed in Cotabato, about 550 miles south-east of Manila. General Rodrigo Gutang, the local Constabulary commander, informed the pilot that his troops were taking over the plane and demanded they be flown to Manila, the source said.

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There had been, however, some gains. "The Queen's wish that the Royal Family should be left alone at Sandringham this year was respected. One of the happiest things in my life has been the change in the image of Princess Anne. Who would have ever believed that Princess Anne would be voted Radio 4's Woman of the Year?"

He quoted from a letter to Princess Anne (later Queen) Victoria in 1836 from King Leopold of Belgium. "You mustn't mind what newspapers say," it advised, continuing that if all editors were gathered together "you would have a crew to which you would not confide a dog leg alone your honour and reputation."

"So, what's new?" Mr Haslam asked.

Grandmaster leads at new chess venue

By Harry Golombek
Chess Correspondent

The Arc Young Masters Tournament, which has played such a valuable role in promoting meetings between the leading grandmasters and a profusion of promising junior chess enthusiasts, has been moved from West Sussex this year to the Uppingham Community College in Leicester.

This year's tournament contains 68 players, who include three grandmasters, nine international masters and two of the British women's Olympic team.

After five rounds of play, Bedford grandmaster James Plaskett is in the clear lead with five points out of five games, one full point ahead of the field. With four points are London grandmaster Jonathan Speelman, Cambridge international master, Bill Harrison, London international master, William Watson, and Birmingham international master, Keith Arkell.

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Gaming chief killed in fall

Obituary, page 14

A post mortem examination is to be held on Sir Anthony Rawlinson, aged 59, the chairman of the Gaming Board, who was killed in a 1,000 ft plunge on Snowdon. The mountaineer and former top Civil Servant slipped on snow-covered Crib Goch, one of the peaks on the 3,560 ft mountain. He was the second person to die in a 1,000 ft fall within a few days.

Sir Anthony of Corringham Road, north-west London, had a distinguished career as a Whitehall Civil Servant and before becoming chairman of the Gaming Board was joint permanent secretary to the Department of Trade and Industry.

He was due to have been the guest of honour, as President of the Alpine Club, at a climbers' dinner in London on Saturday night.

Sightseers stranded

Sightseers admiring the snow on Dartmoor were stranded yesterday and forced to abandon their cars after up to seven inches of snow fell in the West Country.

The motoring organizations reported "unprecedented" conditions yesterday and the London Weather Centre said last night that it would stay cold with snow showers mainly in the South-west.

Base break-in

Four women peace protesters broke into the US air force base at Lakenheath, Suffolk, yesterday after cutting through its security fence. They were detained by an American patrol who handed them over to Ministry of Defence police.

Dudley writ

Lord Dudley is claiming libel damages over a book, *Princess Alice of Kent*, against Peter Lane, the author, and publishers Robert Hale. In a High Court writ, he asks that references to his family be removed immediately from future editions.

Horse trading

A boom in the demand for British heavy horses has led to 51 Shires being exported in the past four months. The main buyers are the United States, Canada, West Germany, the Netherlands and Australia.

Otter risk

A £20,000 investigation into why otters have died in Norfolk has been launched by naturalists after two of the animals proved to have been contaminated with farm chemicals.

PC honoured

Police Constable Brian Dobson, aged 42, is to have a street named after him in Whitnash, Warwickshire, which he has policed for 12 years.

Pay cut choice

Five hundred staff and factory workers at the Sturt Crystal glass-making company in Stourbridge, Hereford and Worcester, have taken a 10 per cent pay cut to avoid redundancy.

Burns girl dies

Hayley Hayes, aged six, died from burns at the Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, yesterday after a fire at her home in Exeter which killed her brother Daniel, aged three.

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'Palace Dallas syndrome' comes under fire

The Queen's assistant press secretary, Mr John Haslam, spoke out this weekend about press "fantasies" who fabricate stories about the Royal Family.

Speaking at a seminar on the media at Missenden Abbey, Buckinghamshire, Mr Haslam attacked recent reports of Princess Anne's "secret pregnancy" and the Princess of Wales's supposed nose reshaping, as well as what he described as a general decline in reporting standards.

"I wonder how many people still believe that Princess Diana had her nose fixed", Mr Haslam said. "The paper that carried the original story that she had, never carried her denial."

"One Sunday paper reported last week that doctors have confirmed that Princess Anne is pregnant and that the Queen had been told", he added. "There was no equivocation about it, as if the reporter had actually been present at the two interviews."

"And when you ask 'Who told you?' you always get the same answer: 'Oh, I can't possibly reveal my sources'."

Two papers, he said, had carried the story on the Monday, even after checking with his office.

"I don't know whether it's true that King George VI kept a book called *Things My Daughters Never Did*", Mr Haslam said, "but if he did I can imagine it ran to several hundred pages."

Mr Haslam also recalled a recent press report of a big security alert at Buckingham Palace.

"The story was that during the alert the Queen was lost. We were alarmed until we realized that at the time she was said to have been missing she was in fact conducting an investiture in front of several hundred people. And the reporter bylined for the story was in Australia."

Mr Haslam blamed the press obsession with being first with "news" at the expense of checking and what he called the "palace Dallas syndrome" in which the Royal Family were regarded as just another soap opera.

He added that general Fleet Street standards had declined. "Some years ago Fleet Street condemned a notorious paparazzo and refused to use him. Now the papers sometimes criticize paparazzi—always foreign, not British—but still use them."

There had been, however, some gains. "The Queen's wish that the Royal Family should be left alone at Sandringham this year was respected. One of the happiest things in my life has been the change in the image of Princess Anne. Who would have ever believed that Princess Anne would be voted Radio 4's Woman of the Year?"

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"So, what's new?" Mr Haslam asked.

سكوا من الاصل

Stress factor ignored in breast cancer, professor says

Breast cancer, which claims the lives of 14,000 British women every year, is statistically linked to stressful events in life and the individual's ability to cope with them, according to Professor Cary Cooper, head of organizational psychology of the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology.

He accuses the medical profession of being "extremely slow" at recognizing the impact of psycho-social factors on health and well-being.

"When a woman loses her husband her doctor gives her Valium. Maybe he should be giving her some kind of support mechanism instead, such as counselling," Professor Cooper says.

Together with his wife, Dr Rachel Cooper, and Mr Brian Faragher, head statistician at the University Hospital of South Manchester, Professor Cooper has just completed a four-year study of more than 2,000 women being screened for breast cancer, the largest investigation of its kind.

It shows that women who are reluctant to show their emotions are more likely to develop breast cancer than those better able to cope with stress, because the extra effort they put into coping lowers the effectiveness of the body's immune system.

As a result, adverse life events, such as widowhood, can accelerate if not trigger breast cancer, Professor Cooper says.

The study also shows that the women most likely to develop breast cancer are less competitive and aggressive than most, and more withdrawn. When they cry, they tend to cry alone.

Professor Cooper, who presents Channel Four's *How to Survive the 9 to 5* television programme, which looks at

Funds 'too low to aid mentally sick'

By Nicholas Timmins

Joint finance, the system being used by the Government to help to fund the transfer of care for schizophrenics and the mentally ill and handicapped to the community, is proving inadequate for the task, a study by the National Association of Health Authorities has concluded.

Instead, extra forms of bridging finance are needed if the community care policy is to be implemented effectively, the study, undertaken jointly with the Centre for Research in Social Policy at Loughborough University, Leicestershire, said.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, is to discuss the issue of bridging finance with the chairmen of the 14 regional health authorities next month.

In an interview with *The Times* last week, Mr Fowler said he would consider the possibility of providing central bridging funds if the chairmen insist that it is necessary to make community care work.

Planners claim it is necessary because health and local authorities are being required to develop the new community-based services at the same time as maintaining the old long-stay mental hospitals while they are being run down.

Mr Gerald Winton, of Loughborough University, who undertook the joint finance survey, said: "It is clear that joint finance is only a very limited role to play in easing patient transfers from hospital to community care."

While about £20 million a year had been available in the past two years through joint finance, it represented an average of only about £200,000 a year for each local authority to fund new community care schemes.

The study found that more local authorities were willing to enter into commitments to provide community care schemes in 1984 than they had in 1981. This was in spite of the fact that their take-up of joint finance had fallen steadily from more than 90 per cent in the five years to 1981, to only 73 per cent in 1984-85.

The report says there is now "general agreement that joint planning (between health and local authorities and voluntary groups) has achieved less over the last decade than had been hoped".

The Banking Insurance and Finance Union (Bifin) has launched a survey on the employment of disabled staff in banks, building societies and insurance companies.

The union claims that few of the industry's 750,000 workforce are disabled, and where they are employed, as telephonists for example, career opportunities are limited.

"We want to improve the number and range of finance industry jobs available to people who have disabilities," Ms Ann Rae, who chairs the union's disability advisory committee, said.

Birth control vaccine tested

The first trial of a new birth control vaccine that could prevent pregnancy for between one and two years has started in Australia (our Social Services Correspondent writes).

Thirty women who have been sterilized have volunteered to have the vaccine in a nine-month study to assess its safety and side effects.

At present the only other vaccine in widespread use lasts for three to six months and produces unpleasant side effects in some women. The new vaccine, which has been successfully tested on animals, blocks a hormone which is essential to allow the fertilized egg to implant in the womb.

The World Health Organization says the vaccine could be available for general use by the mid-1990s, and officials claim its development could be as important as the introduction of the contraceptive pill.

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Research close to gene clue for cystic fibrosis

Scientists seeking a cure for cystic fibrosis are very close to finding the faulty gene which causes the disease, a conference was told yesterday.

Mrs Barbara Bentley, director of the Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust, told its biennial conference in Scarborough: "We are now excitingly close to tracing the gene responsible, and this will lead to us being able to treat them."

Mrs Bentley said: "Twenty years ago, when the trust was started, it was rare for anyone to survive into adulthood. Now it is commonplace."

Victims of the disease, which affects the lungs and digestive system, have to undergo several hours of physiotherapy every day.

Mrs Bentley said two million people were carriers of cystic fibrosis, and if they had four copies they would develop the disease.

"The exciting discovery of the actual chromosome on which the faulty gene lies opens up the hope that in only a few years it will be possible to identify cystic fibrosis carriers and, much earlier, prenatal diagnosis will be available," Mrs Bentley said.

Delegates from the trust's 82 branches were told a record £750,000 had been raised in the past year for research into the disease, which affects 6,000 people.

Blood key to deafness

Blood tests could be used to help to detect and cure deafness after the discovery by scientists that the thickness of blood may cause loss of hearing.

Two studies of patients attending Glasgow hospitals for hearing disorders showed that they were more likely to have particularly rigid red cells in their blood than people with normal hearing. That could make it more difficult for the cells to pass through very narrow blood vessels to feed a vital part of the ear.

Mr George Browning, of the Medical Research Council's Institute of Hearing Research out-station at Glasgow Royal Infirmary, said further studies were under way.

He said that about one person in eight suffers perceptible loss of hearing and for many there was no known cause. Older people were more likely to suffer, but whether that was due to ageing or an accumulation of the effects of illness and hazards, such as noise, for a longer period, was uncertain.

But it had now been found that blood viscosity could be an important factor. Mr Browning added: "It raises the exciting possibility of new ways of diagnosing loss of hearing at the earliest stage and treating it by treating the blood disorder."

Professor Mark Haggard, director of the Institute of Hearing Research, Nottingham, said similar surveys, analysed by his colleagues, Dr Adrian Davis, had indicated that about seven million people in England and Wales suffered from a 25 decibel hearing loss. That meant they could not hear a loudish whisper, but would hear something louder.

Specialist shops hold their own

A survey in the London area by Thames Television, reported in *The Grocer*, finds that in a four-week period, 57 per cent of shoppers visited a specialist greengrocer, 51 per cent a butcher, and 47 per cent a baker.

But only 12 per cent went to a fishmonger, and more than half of all fish bought was from general grocery stores.

The increasing power of supermarket chains is shown. During the survey period, 60 per cent visited a Sainsbury store, more than a third bought from Tesco, and a quarter went to a Co-op.

New technique to aid claims for asbestosis

A simple test by doctors at the London Chest Hospital is offering new hope to people who are denied compensation after exposure to asbestos.

One in 10 people claiming industrial disablement benefits are turned down at present because of doubts about whether they have asbestosis or some other lung disease.

The test is helping doctors to confirm asbestosis in cases where X-rays and other methods of diagnosis have proved inconclusive. It was recently recognized by the Medical Appeal Tribunal in awarding disablement benefits.

Dr Colin Rudd, consultant physician at the hospital, said the technique involved passing a tube down the throat into the affected part of the lungs which are then washed in a salty solution.

The fluid is then sucked out and the cells examined, making it possible to "confirm beyond doubt" whether asbestos is present and whether it had caused asbestosis.

"We do this test in cases where there is real doubt as to diagnosis. It helps us to manage the patient's treatment and, as a spin-off, the evidence may also be used to support their compensation claims", Dr Rudd said.

Staying awake may be jet lag cure

A possible cure for jet lag has been discovered by scientists researching difficulties experienced by air crews in obtaining proper sleep between international flights.

They recommend that crew members deliberately keep themselves awake at the end of a long flight, especially travelling eastwards, to help to ensure a long night's sleep later instead of dozing for two or three shorter periods.

The international research was co-ordinated by the National Aeronautic and Space Administration (Nasa) Ames Research Centre, and involved organizations including British Airways, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and scientists from the RAF Institute of Aviation Medicine at Farnborough, Kent.

A total of 56 volunteer pilots and flight engineers took part in a series of experiments in sleep laboratories in London, Tokyo, San Francisco and Frankfurt.

The CAA reports that while most volunteers wired up to electrodes-obtained sleep, there was clear evidence that crew members experienced better quality sleep after west-bound flights.

The research is continuing. A CAA spokesman said: "We don't claim to have found a cure for jet lag. This research has been aimed at helping pilots and crew members to obtain a good sleep between flights, but obviously it is a tip which could prove helpful to passengers as well."



Marina Robles and her daughter, Grania Hyde-Smith, aged 15, rehearsing at home in Putney, south-west London, yesterday, for a Festival Hall concert tonight. It will be their first London public performance together. (Photograph: John Voos).

Law suit threat to tobacco lobby

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Forest, the tobacco industry financed pressure group which combats the anti-smoking message from government-funded bodies such as the Health Education Council, has been threatened with legal action by the World Health Organization.

Forest has been claiming that the WHO has described the evidence that non-smokers may be harmed by the smoke from other people's cigarettes as marginal or inadequate.

But the World Health Organization has written a strongly worded letter to Forest accusing it of distortion, demanding a retraction, and stating: "We do not know on what you base your assertion that WHO has described the evidence of harm from passive smoking as 'marginal' or 'inadequate'."

WHO says its view is that "the available evidence leads to the conclusion that passive smoking gives rise to some risk of cancer", adding that the organization did not participate in a Geneva conference which Forest has referred to as the source for its remarks.

In a letter from the coordinator of its smoking and health programme, copied to WHO's legal counsel, Forest has been told to desist from repeating its "misleading statements". If it fails to do so, the letter says, "WHO will have to envisage appropriate measures".

Parents rule on television viewing

By Patricia Clough

As Parliament is being asked to approve television censorship to protect children, a survey published today indicates that the viewing of nine out of ten children is in fact controlled by their parents.

Out of a sample of more than 350 children questioned by Miss Dee Norfolk, an arts graduate who conducts pre-teen opinion polls, only 12 per cent said they were allowed to watch anything they liked. Eighty-eight per cent said they were not.

The survey comes in the midst of the controversy over Mr Winston Churchill's private member's Bill, now before Parliament, which would make pornography and violence in the theatre, films and television punishable. The Bill's proponents argue, among other things, that it is necessary to protect children who might be watching television programmes not suitable for them.

The survey also showed that children's favourite programmes are not the ones designed for them, but popular adult-oriented series. Top of the list came *The A-Team* (18 per cent), followed by *EastEnders* (15 per cent), *Minder* (12 per cent), and *Dynasty* (10 per cent).

Top of the list of least favourite programmes was *Wogan* (22 per cent), followed by the mind-stretching quiz games, *Blockbusters* (18 per cent) and *Mastermind* (12 per cent).

Not one of the children questioned mentioned *Blue Peter*, the long-running children's programme.

Spokesmen for the BBC and the Independent Broadcasting Authority said last night that the preferred programmes were regarded as family viewing material.

The BBC emphasized that although its own research has also found that children tend to prefer grown-up programmes, the viewing figures of children's programmes are extremely high and the response is always " tremendous".

Bill changed, page 32

Underground flooding swamps city centre

Underground flooding is tours of the cave network deluging low lying areas of beneath the city have been Nottingham city centre after a cancelled.

Parts of the basement at Trent Water Authority is to be Marks and Spencer's main held this week.

Parts of the basement at Marks and Spencer's main held this week. Council officials believe that because there are no easy escape routes for the water, an elaborate underground system will have to be constructed to cope with the build-up.

Board to cut water to 3,000 bad payers

Anglian Water, the largest of the 10 regional water authorities in England and Wales, is to disconnect supplies to 3,000 bad payers this week.

The get-tough action comes as part of its "pay up or else" campaign after the authority's accountants reported that it was owed £4 million.

Anglian Water has 1.7 million customers between the Humber and the Thames and the mounting debts from bad payers has been causing severe financial problems. Warning notices were sent out to the 60,000 customers owing money and most paid.

Anglian Water said that after trying all the usual warning procedures it had instructed engineers to start disconnecting supplies this week.

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Israel forced to end its search in Lebanon for kidnapped troops

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Israel has ended its search for two kidnapped soldiers in south Lebanon and is instead relying on political pressure and intelligence to secure their release.

After a pessimistic briefing on the chances of finding the missing soldiers, Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister, decided on Saturday afternoon to end the search outside Israel's designated buffer zone in south Lebanon.

The previous evening, Major General Moshe Levy, the chief of staff, announced on television that he had ordered a partial withdrawal in the face of mounting hostilities by the local Shia population. But yesterday the hostilities continued and Katyusha rockets were fired into West Galilee.

The army had hoped to trap the kidnapers, by rapidly sealing off the search area but despite combing the countryside and scouring every building it found no trace.

Moreover, Israeli methods of rounding up thousands of villagers and interrogating them for hours was seen to be causing deep and dangerous resentment. While Israeli soldiers used sledge hammers to smash open locks and ransack cupboards, the Amal Shia militia began mobilizing men prepared to carry out suicide raids to force the invaders to leave.

Israeli intelligence also discovered that hundreds of gunmen from the Hezbollah fundamentalist group, which claimed to have kidnapped the soldiers, were pouring into the search area.

Meanwhile, the searchers were constantly coming up against UN troops frequently caught in the crossfire as militia men sniped at the Israeli convoys.

Mr Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister of Israel, yesterday congratulated the army on its "maximum control in the field" during the operation. He said it had presented an image of the army as being concerned for the life of every soldier.

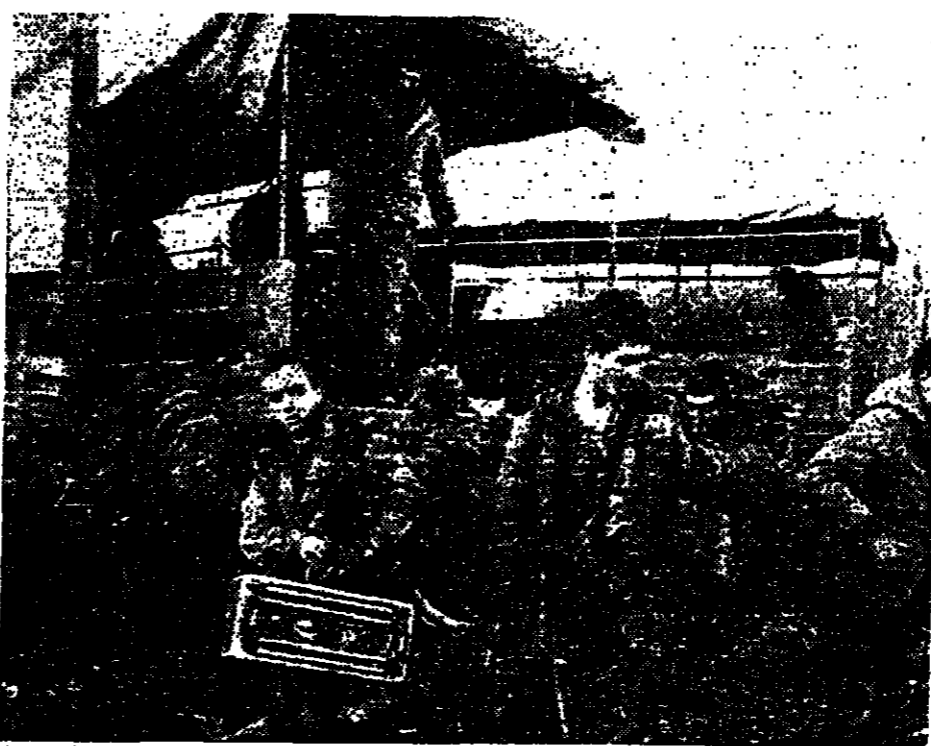
If it found no trace of the kidnapers, the search did discover huge quantities of arms, ammunition and rockets, which were more than likely to have been stockpiled for future use in raids into Israel. But not all the stock-

piles were found because yesterday's rockets were fired from somewhere south of Tyre and drew an answering barrage from Israel and the South Lebanon Army, which it backed.

Of the thousands interrogated during the search, several dozen have been detained for further questioning about their links with the Hezbollah and for possible future exchange for the two kidnapped men.

Meanwhile Israel is trying to work behind the scenes to find ways of making contact with the kidnapers. The government must also reassess its policy along the northern border with Lebanon, particularly in the light of the huge arms caches found.

Although political leaders have been satisfied with border security since Israel's withdrawal last June, there is now doubt whether all will remain quiet on the northern front. By maintaining its buffer zone, Israel has kept open the border to its troops and the search operation has shown the local population that no Israeli government, whatever its political leadership, will hesitate to use the zone as its own backyard.



Israeli soldiers loading weapons and equipment yesterday as they prepared to break camp in southern Lebanon after calling off the search for their two missing colleagues.

UN draft blames Iraq for war

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

The UN Security Council, alarmed by the success of Iran's offensive against Iraq, has drafted a resolution which in effect blames Iraq for the start of the Gulf War, and begins to meet Iran's most sensitive and central demand for ending the conflict.

The draft, spearheaded by Britain, Denmark and Australia, and refined by the non-permanent members of the council, is meant to entice Iran into a ceasefire and negotiated settlement. It is expected to be adopted today after a four-day council debate on the latest escalation in the Gulf War.

Although the language is diplomatic and veiled, the proposed resolution censures Iraq, even though Iranian troops are in Iraqi territory. It is not expected to please Iran entirely, but diplomats regard the initiative as a first step in a more explicit declaration at a later stage in the council's deliberations.

As a primary condition for ending the war, Iraq has called for international condemnation of Iraq as the aggressor. The draft, however, after intense Iraqi and Arab pressure, "deplores the initial act which gave rise to the conflict". It marks a dramatic undertaking by the council which before the latest Iranian offensive seemed politically impossible.

But how is that revenge to be taken when the news from the war front suggested the downing of the plane was in retaliation for the Iranian capture of the Fao Peninsula last week where they advanced on the ruined oil refinery town from three directions.

The Iraqis have admitted they have been facing four separate Iraqi counter-attacks amid the wreckage of Fao, buoying up their own spirits with a claim that they have killed 1,000 Iraqis.

Tehran mourns its martyrs with cries for revenge

From Robert Fisk, Tehran

The pall-bearers held the coffins over their heads at arms length. Each of the wooden boxes covered with the red, white and green flag of Iran seemed to float in the air above the crowd. There was, after all, little left of the 46 passengers of the Iranian Fokker Friendship blasted from the skies by the Iraqis last week.

There could be no mistaking the message given to the thousands of mourners - young men in parka jackets and jeans, Mullahs and Revolutionary Guards - "The blood of these martyrs will turn into bullets and lodge in the hearts of the enemy".

Rhythmically, they hammered their fists on their chests and the whole street outside the parliament building vibrated with a singular giant heart-beat. "Revenge, revenge," they shouted.

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Ayatollah Khomeini spoke of the downing of the Iranian passenger aircraft over Abvaz by telling the victims' families - who included not only MPs but also Sayad Hassan Shah-Cheraghi, chief editor of the Iranian daily newspaper *Kayhan* - that they had received their rewards in death.

"A nation which launched a revolution for the satisfaction of divine, spiritual and humane values," he said, "has nothing to fear from the martyrdom of its dear ones."

The funeral itself prompted thousands of mourners to wear red headbands, symbolizing their readiness for martyrdom, and push aside the military guard of honour and even the cadet school's brass band and run alongside the coffins in a near-hysterical stampede.

THE IRAQI NEWS AGENCY (Reuters reports) recaptured an important communications junction yesterday, according to the official Iraqi News Agency (Reuters reports).

The Iraqi agency said the central column launched fierce fighting that left Iranian corpses "filling the battleground."

Tempers high in Alexandria

Funeral threatens more violence

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The threat of renewed violence hangs over Alexandria as the black ghetto in northern Johannesburg plans a mass funeral for at least 23 people killed in riots and clashes with police in the past week.

Passions run high on such occasions and they frequently end in violence, bloody clashes with police and more funerals.

Meanwhile, an explosion in a telephone booth yesterday destroyed a Pretoria post office and badly damaged a neighbouring chemist shop and greengrocery. Police said no one was injured in what they believed was the work of insurgents of the outlawed African National Congress.

Senior police officials are increasingly concerned by the growing number of firearms and explosives finding their way into black townships. Until recently, the use of landmines by the ANC was confined to border areas but a guerrilla killed near East London last month had five landmines in his possession and last week one blew the rear wheel off a police armoured vehicle patrolling the outskirts of the Mamelodi township near Pretoria.

Police sources say security forces are not only facing stones and petrol bombs, fashioned from bottles and old rags, but are now coming under gunfire when they enter strife-torn townships. They believe many of the firearms are stolen from private homes or seized from murdered policemen.

A black policeman, identified as Constable M.J. Letusoa, was found dead on Saturday in Soshanguve, near Pretoria. Police said he had been stoned and beaten to death.

The angry mood in Alexandria was evident on Friday when Bishop Desmond Tutu was booed and heckled by a crowd of about 40,000 as he told them of the talks he and other churchmen had had the previous day with Mr Adrian Vlok, the Deputy Minister of Defence and Law and Order, in Cape Town.

A mob of 500 blacks yesterday left a trail of destruction in the Transvaal township of Nelspruit, 120 miles east of Pretoria.

The eastern Transvaal province has until now been barely touched by the unrest, fuelled by grievances over apartheid race laws, in which more than 1,100 people have died in the past two years.

Three members of the Commonwealth's "eminent persons" mission, set up to promote dialogue between South African blacks and whites, were questioned by police on Friday when they tried to enter Alexandria.

Mr Malcolm Fraser, former Australian Prime Minister, General Olusegun Obasanjo, former Nigerian head of state, and Dame Nina Barron, president of the World Council of Churches, were taken to a police station and asked if they had permits to enter the townships.

Spectra, page 10

Fraser trip to whites only beach

Johannesburg - Two members of the Commonwealth "Eminent Persons Group", approaching the end of a week-long and hitherto low-profile visit to South Africa to monitor the pace of reform, went for a stroll on the beach in Port Elizabeth at the weekend. They took photographs of the "whites only" signs as heavily-armed troops and riot police looked on (Michael Hornsby writes).

Asked to comment on what they had seen, the former Australian Prime Minister, Mr Malcolm Fraser, and the former Nigerian Head of State, General Olusegun Obasanjo, held their peace. Mr Fraser waved his pipe and General Obasanjo just smiled.

King's Beach, the stretch of sand they toured, has been in the news recently because of a precedent-setting offer by the local subsidiary of the US General Motors company to support "legally and financially" any of its 30,000 black employees prosecuted for using the beach.

It is the first time a foreign firm has gone beyond verbal condemnation of apartheid and actively encouraged civil disobedience by its employees. The issue of whether to open Port Elizabeth's beaches to all races has been fiercely debated in the city council.

So far the views of the conservative faction have prevailed. A recent decision of the council's community services committee, empowering municipal officials to have blacks removed from "white" beaches, prompted GM's offer.

Seoul ends arrest of dissident

Seoul (AFP) - The leading dissident, Mr Kim Young Sam, has been freed from house arrest, but another prominent opposition figure, Mr Kim Dae Jung, was still confined to his home, opposition sources said.

Mr Kim's aides said that 200 police had left their positions around his house.

Police also lifted their blockade of the opposition New Korea Democratic Party headquarters, where a meeting is due to take place today to discuss stepping up the NKDP's campaign for direct presidential elections.

Drugs charge

Middlebury, Vermont (AFP) - Mr John Zaccaro, aged 22, the student son of Mrs Geraldine Ferraro, Democratic vice-presidential candidate in 1984, has been charged with drug trafficking after being caught selling cocaine.

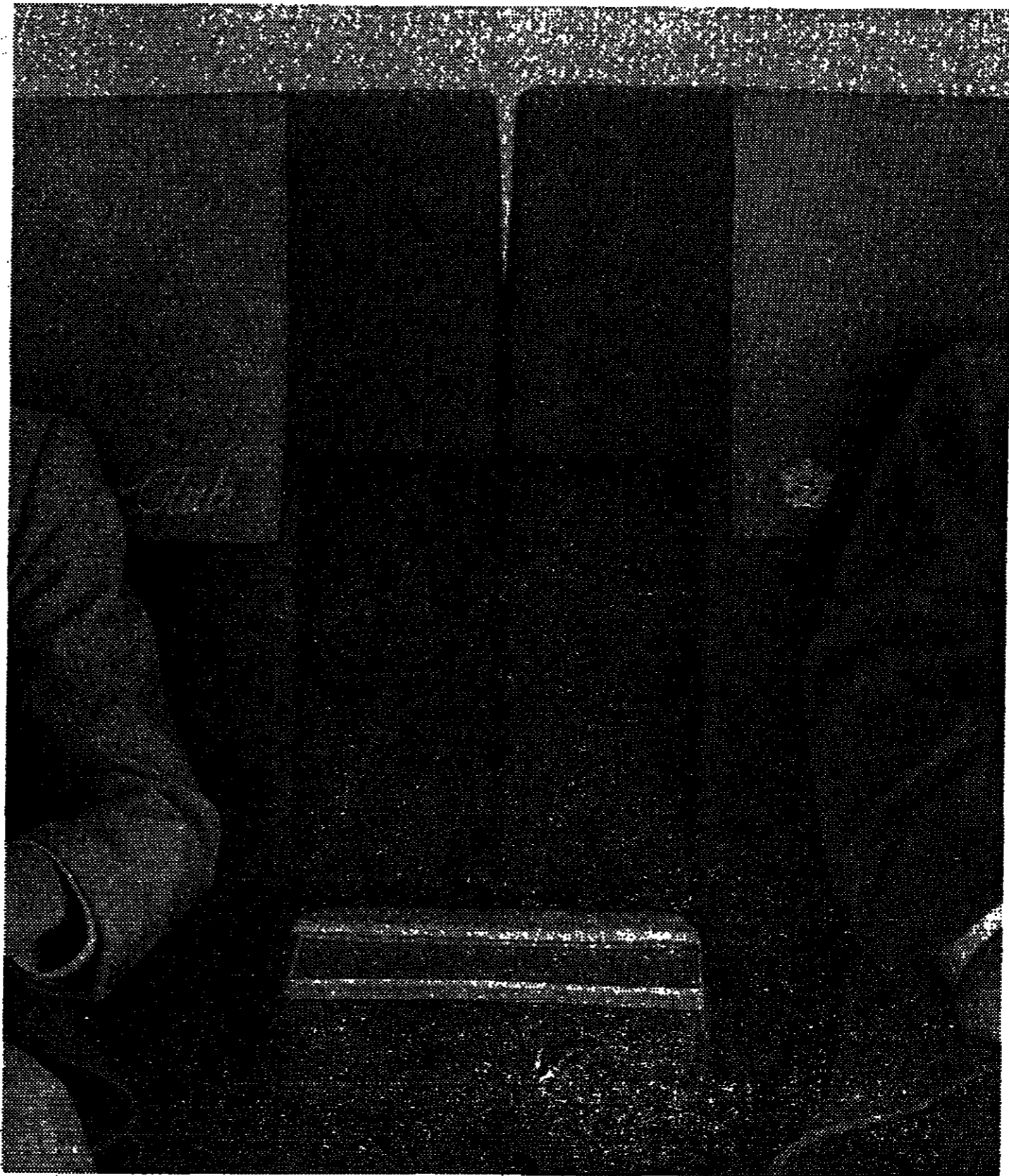
Dog saved

Columbus, Ohio (UPI) - A mongrel dog called Oden, which ruined its kidneys by drinking anti-freeze, is home again with its owner, Martha Johnson, after receiving a new kidney from a littermate in an experimental operation which cost \$12,000 (£8,300).

Fifteen drown

Delhi (Reuters) - Twelve schoolgirls and three teachers drowned when a boat capsized during a school picnic on the Mehliya River near Shamaji in western India, the Press Trust of India reported.

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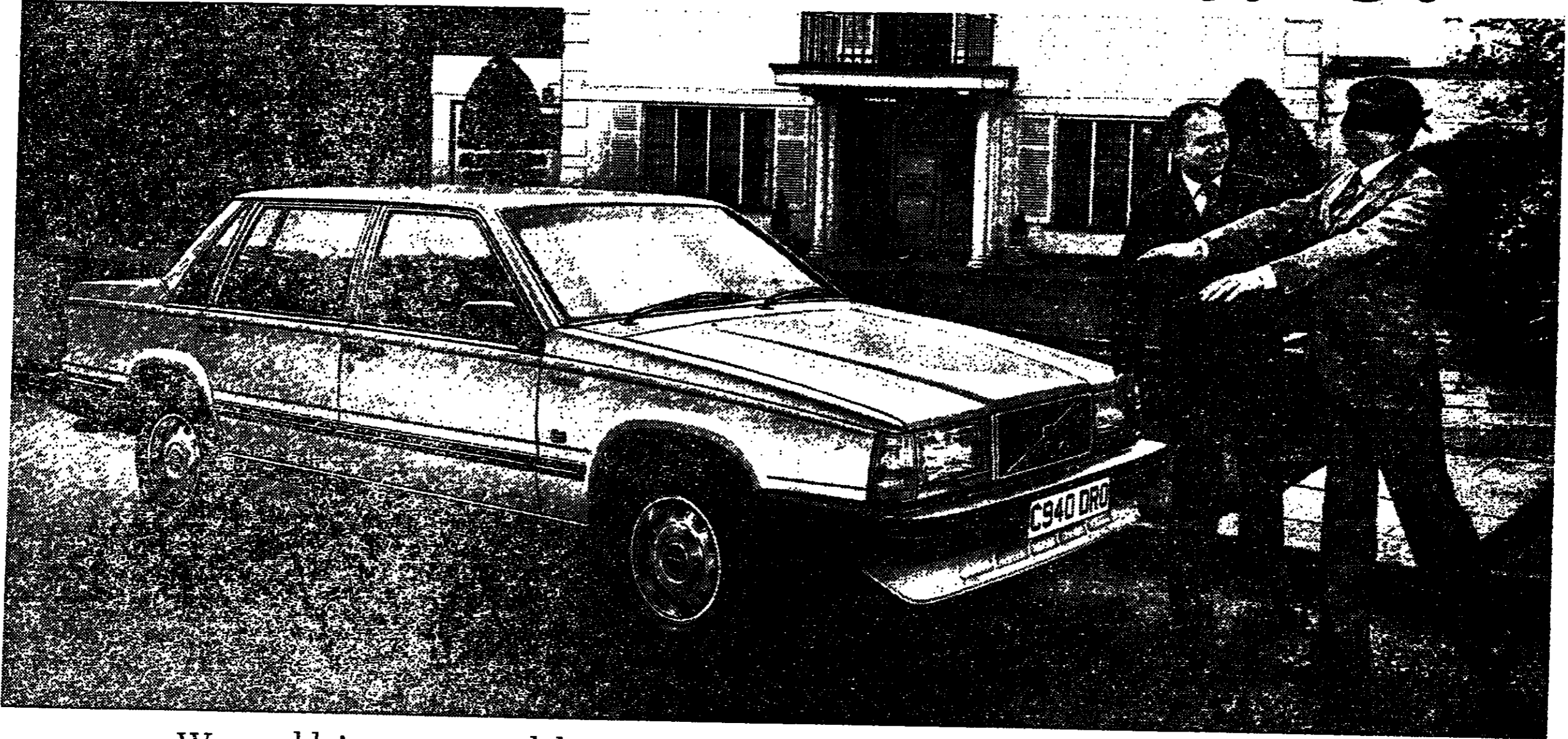
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Perhaps, yes. But actually, no.

As you pull away from the kerb (don't worry, the salesman gives you directions) you notice the lightness and precision of the power steering.

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This car is no slouch.

"IT'S ONE OF THOSE BIG BMW'S?"

No it isn't.

The salesman, feeling rather pleased with himself, helps you with a few clues.

He tells you about the car's welded box-

steel construction, and the 9 coats of paint and primer that protect the bodywork.

He mentions the 13-outlet heating and ventilation system, the 17.2 cubic foot boot, the central locking.

You can feel the power-assisted brakes for yourself.

"A JAGUAR?"

Wrong again.

Against your better judgement, you start to lower your sights a bit. You did, after all, mention a price limit of £11,000.

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In the other, a pen.

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هكذا من الأصل

Reagan wants INF weapons dumped within three years

From Michael Bunyon, Washington

President Reagan sent a letter yesterday to Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, welcoming his proposal for a ban on intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Europe, but calling also for the elimination of Soviet weapons targeted on China and Japan.

His letter, said to be positive and optimistic in tone, is a formal reply to a Soviet proposal of January 15, which outlined a plan for the gradual elimination of all nuclear weapons by the end of the century. The White House is to issue a statement within the next day or two.

While welcoming a nuclear ban by the year 2000, Mr Reagan concentrated in his letter on an INF agreement, an area where progress looks most promising.

He called for removal of intermediate-range weapons in Europe within three years. But to allay concerns expressed to Mr Edward Rovey, a US arms control adviser who recently discussed the plan with Asian countries, Mr Reagan insisted SS20 missiles must be scrapped in Asia.

As one option, the President suggested limiting SS20 deployment to Soviet Central Asia and allowing the US to keep an equal number of intermediate missiles in the US. But after three years both sides would have to get rid of these missiles as well.

Mr Reagan, who also sent Mr Paul Nitze, his senior arms control adviser, to Europe to sound out allied opinion, proposed a reduction of intermediate weapons in Europe to 140 within a year, with proportional reductions in Asia. The number would then be halved and dropped to zero.

Another option would be to reduce the numbers straight down to zero in three years on a global basis.

On the British and French nuclear weapons, which Mr Gorbachov says should not be modernized, the US position is that it is up to those two countries to negotiate separately with Moscow. He reject-

ed Mr Gorbachov's proposal that the US should not supply missiles to its allies.

According to Administration officials, Mr Reagan told the Soviet leader that his plan to make the world nuclear-free was a positive gesture but nuclear weaponry must be reduced one step at a time.

● Nato fears: President Reagan, in his reply to Mr Gorbachov, is firmly rejecting the Soviet proposal to freeze British and French nuclear forces at existing levels and ban the transfer of US Trident missiles to Britain in exchange for an agreement on scrapping all Soviet and American Euro-missiles (Nicholas Ashford writes).

The US's Nato allies are waiting anxiously to hear the precise form of the American response. In particular, they want to know what level of reduction in the number of medium-range missiles Mr Reagan will propose in response to the challenge made by Mr Gorbachov that they should all be scrapped. The Soviet offer has raised fears among the US's allies - which Washington has been unable to lay to rest completely - that the US could be tempted into reaching an agreement which would leave them militarily vulnerable.

Some European countries felt that the removal of all Pershing 2 and cruise missiles from Europe would not only leave Nato vulnerable to the conventional superiority of Warsaw Pact countries but would weaken the transatlantic link between the US and its European allies.

Britain and France were concerned that they would feel very exposed if the question of their nuclear forces appeared to be the only thing blocking an agreement on medium-range missiles.

Both countries have plans to modernize their nuclear deterrents. In Britain's case the purchase of Trident would increase by eight times the number of its nuclear war-



The American entertainer, Danny Kaye, proudly displaying his Legion d'Honneur after receiving the decoration in Paris

Inquiry explodes Nasa's credibility

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington

The inquiry into the cause of the shuttle Challenger disaster has shocked America almost as profoundly as the explosion itself.

Almost daily during the past week, the inquiry has embarrassingly and incriminatingly revealed not simply a failure of technology but a massive failure of the entire organization.

The once vaunted National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) now virtually stands accused of culpable negligence.

Far from stemming a haemorrhage of confidence, the Rogers Commission has opened wounds through which the credibility of Nasa drains rapidly. Its revelations are far more damaging than any trouble with the O-ring seals of the booster rockets. They have not only undermined public and political support but, more seriously, have led to public questions

for each launch was reversed. But the main accusation to come from the testimonies is that Nasa's information flow was so clogged that senior management was not informed of those safety worries - worries that had been nagging for three years - why were the rocket seals burning?

The commission, apparently shocked by testimony heard in closed sessions, has already concluded that the decision making process "may have been flawed". It has also barred all those involved in the launch from taking part in the investigation.

The senate investigating panel has been equally shocked by the apparent reluctance of Nasa to come clean. Nearly all the damaging information on who knew what and when has been leaked anonymously.

There is no doubt heads will roll beginning at the top. Mr James Bates, the administrator, is on leave facing accusations of fraud from his previous job with a big defence contractor. But he is trying to ensure that if he goes, Dr William Graham, his acting deputy, will not replace him. The Reagan Administration bristles at any attempt to dictate terms, but probably wants both men out. Mr Jesse Moore, head of the shuttle programme, was transferred before the ill-fated launch.

What is not questioned is that the American space programme will remain on the launch pad until the astronauts themselves are assured that those sending them into space know what they are doing.

space shuttle programme in temporary suspension after the explosion of Challenger. Ariane's success can only increase its share of the huge satellite launch market.

Ariane goes into perfect orbit

Kourou, French Guiana (AP) - The European Space Agency reported that two satellites launched by the Ariane booster were in perfect north-south orbit. With the US

Ozal arrives home to union protest

From Rasit Gurdilek, Ankara

Mr Turgut Ozal, the Turkish Prime Minister, who boasted of dazzling economic successes and a restoration of democracy during his official visit to Britain last week, came home to a strong protest by workers who denounced their "ruthless exploitation" and heavy curtailment of union rights.

Some 30,000 people turned out in Izmir for a "bread, peace, freedom rally" on Saturday in the first such mass demonstration since the 1980 military coup. It was organized by the once-dominant Turkish Trade Unions Confederation, the country's biggest labour confederation, with about a million members.

Falling living standards due to high inflation, to which workers feel they are particularly exposed in view of restrictive labour legislation,

was the main theme of speeches at the rally which was closely watched by police. The head of the union confederation, Mr Sevkettin Yilmaz, mocked government claims that workers were more prosperous.

The militancy of the confederation, which advocates non-political "supra-party unionism", is in sharp contrast to its low profile under the military regime.

Brazil grants Haiti police chief asylum

Port-au-Prince (AFP) - The former head of Haiti's notorious political police, Colonel Albert Pierre, has been given political asylum in Brazil after hiding in its embassy here.

A reliable source said asylum was also given to his wife, Mr Gener Cotin, a former colleague, and Mr Edner Pageotte Andre, a former parliamentary deputy.

Spaniards march against alliance

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Hundreds of thousands of Spaniards took to the streets of Madrid yesterday to demonstrate against remaining in Nato, as the Government of Señor Felipe González prepared to launch its campaign for a "yes" verdict on membership in the March 12 referendum.

The demonstrators have the wind in their sails, with two public opinion polls released at the weekend showing majorities in favour of leaving Nato, especially among young people.

In an obvious bid to prevent the anti-Nato demonstration dominating the headlines, four ministers addressed rallies in working-class suburbs of the capital. They were not well attended.

Señor Francisco Fernández Ordóñez, the Foreign Minister,

insisted that peace is best defended inside the alliance.

Speaking at the rally, Professor E.P. Thompson, the British historian, told Spaniards that they would be doing a service by withdrawing from Nato.

Señor González is seeking to persuade Spaniards that by saying "yes" to staying in the alliance they would reinforce the "European pillar", while quitting Nato would leave Spain alone in its bilateral relationship with the US.

The most discouraging poll result for the Government came from the organization it customarily uses. A fortnight ago its poll gave a small majority in favour of staying in Nato, but the latest survey shows 31 per cent against and only 27 per cent for remaining in the alliance.

Dead spy left letter for wife

Washington - Mr Larry Wu-tai Chin, the former Central Intelligence Agency analyst convicted of spying for China for 30 years, killed himself in his prison cell on Friday by tying a plastic bag over his head, a post-mortem examination confirmed (Michael Bunyon writes).

Medical examiners found that Chin, aged 63, died of asphyxiation. A sealed letter to his wife that he posted in prison will be translated and screened for possible security information. The authorities are also investigating why he was left unsupervised.

Chin had been convicted and was due to be sentenced on March 17.

Reagan picks new White House counsel

Washington (UPI) - Mr Peter J. Wallison, aged 44, a Washington lawyer and former counsel to Vice-President Nelson Rockefeller, will succeed Mr Fred Fielding as the White House counsel, President Reagan announced on Friday.

In another announcement, President Reagan said he was nominating Mr Ronald Lauder, former chairman of Estée Lauder International, to be ambassador to Austria.

Bhutto 'tortured to death'

From Hasan Akhtar, Islamabad

Mr Tikka Khan, a former army chief and secretary general of the Pakistan People's Party, is trying to gather evidence to prove that Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the former Prime Minister, was actually tortured to death.

He said yesterday he was convinced that Bhutto, who was sentenced to hang, was carried to the scaffold at Rawalpindi jail already dead. But he believed it would be very difficult to collect evidence which could stand the test of judicial reliability after a lapse of so many years.

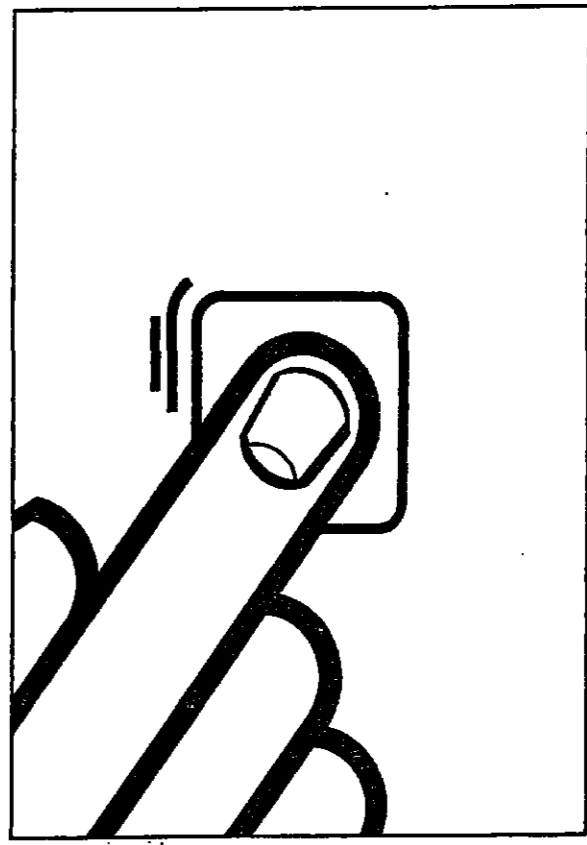
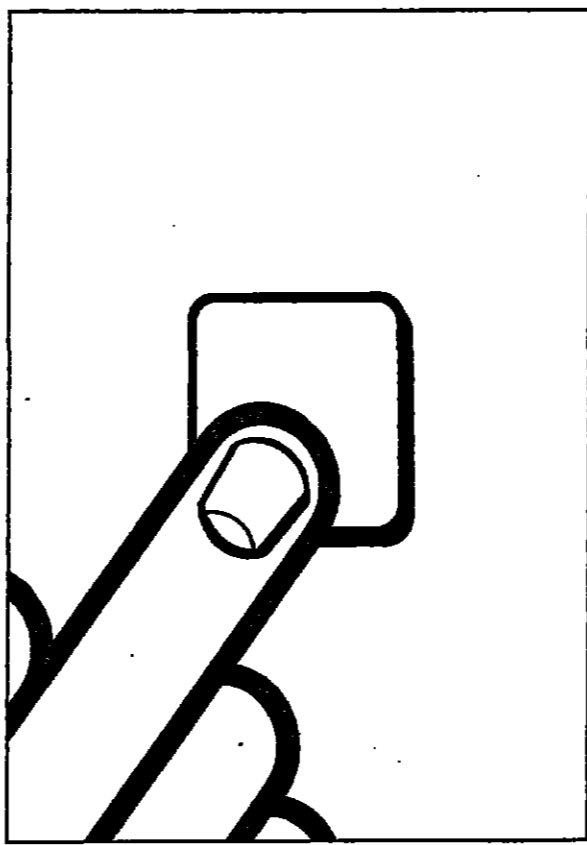
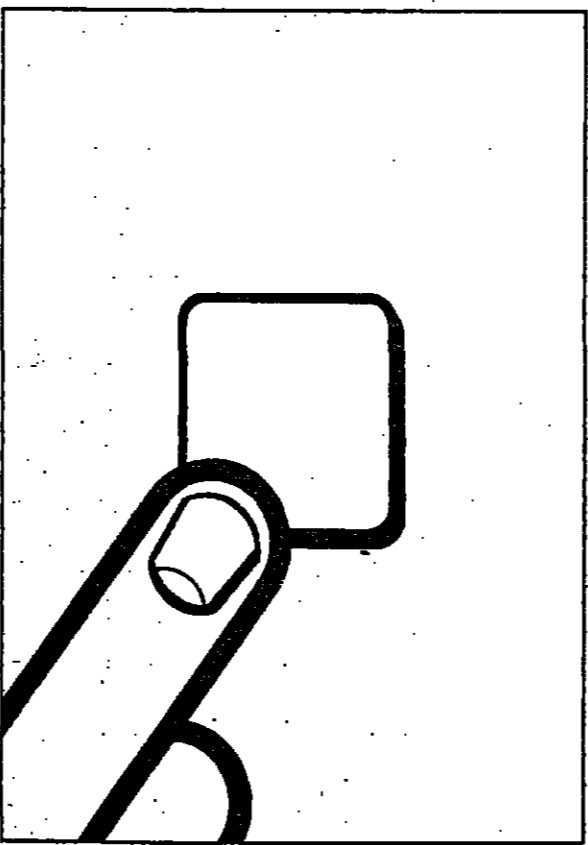
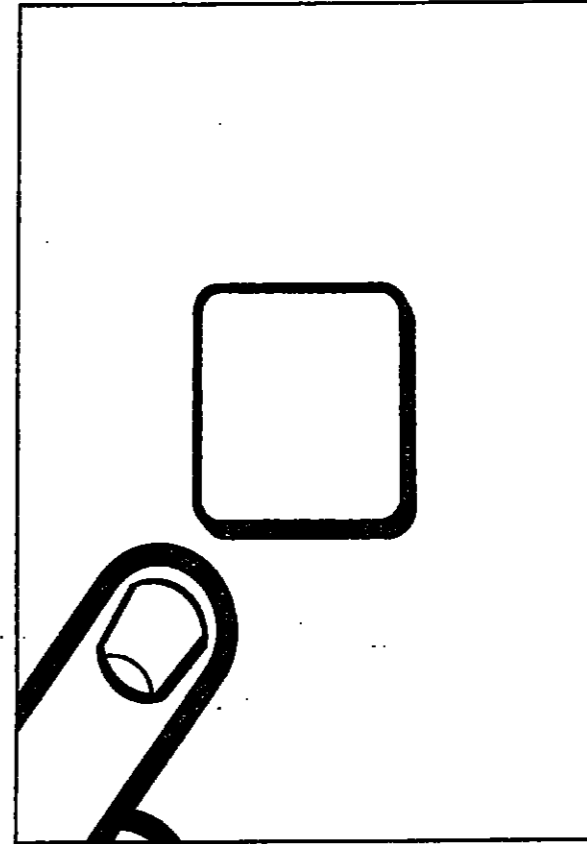
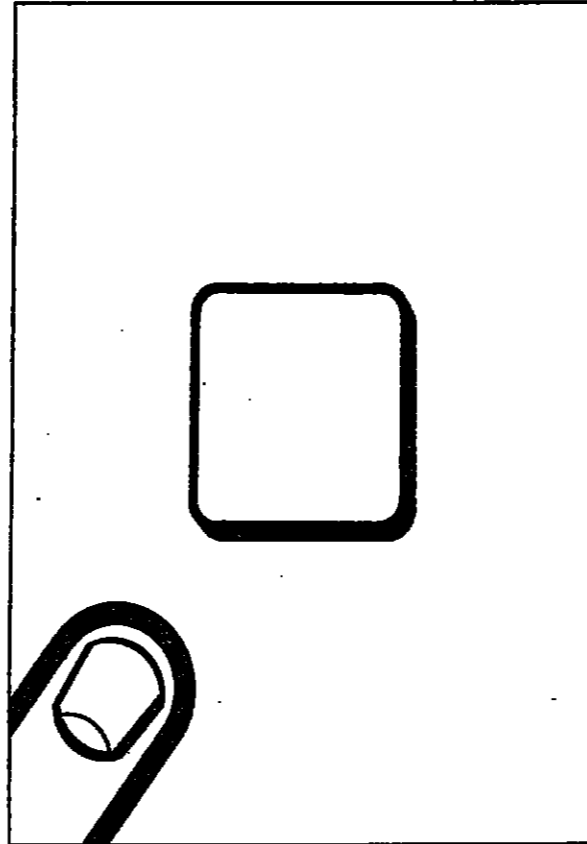
He added that it had been the consistent demand of the Pakistan People's Party leadership that facts relating to Bhutto's detention and death should be verified. Bhutto was in jail for a year and a half during his trial on a political murder charge.

Meanwhile, President Zia has said he had no intention of joining the ruling Pakistan Muslim League party.

General Zia made the statement in Sibi, Baluchistan, on Saturday.

The opposition in the National Assembly has said that under the constitution General Zia could not hold the offices of President and army chief simultaneously.

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Royal visit to New Zealand

Protests greet the Queen

From Stephen Taylor Auckland

The royal yacht Britannia, fresh from drama and adventure in the Middle East, berthed in Auckland harbour yesterday - a day late for the arrival in New Zealand of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

The Royal entourage embarked in the afternoon, having spent the first night of this seventh visit by the Queen to New Zealand at Government House, residence of Sir Paul Reeves, the Governor-General.

The most distant of her realms, and also one of the most enthusiastically loyalist, New Zealand offered an unusually low-key welcome for the Queen on Saturday.

The official programme gets under way today with a walk-about in Auckland city centre. Driving from the airport, the royal cars passed a small protest demonstration of about 25 people representing a number of groups opposing the visit, including Republicans, Maori activists and Irish nationalists.

A recent opinion poll indicates that the strength of royalist sentiment in New Zealand is waning among the young but there is still a broad range of support for the visit. The survey found that more than 40 per cent welcomed the idea, about 40 per cent were indifferent, while 9 per cent were opposed.

Throughout yesterday a stream of visitors made their way down to the quay where Britannia is moored. The main features of the visit include the national Maori reception in Hastings tomorrow and the state opening of Parliament in Wellington on Wednesday.

The Royal couple depart for Australia on Friday.

Mr Thapa's supporters accuse Mr Thapa of "Walpolean" behaviour while others speak darkly of the amount of disposable funds he amassed during his three years in power.

The management of the economy will be an issue because the recent devaluation has had a marked effect on prices, an annual income of \$160 (about £114) per capita leaves Nepal the fourth or fifth least developed country in the world; and, the population growth rate has risen from 2.7 per cent to almost 3 per cent because of immigrants from India.

Speech angers Nepal opposition

From Michael Hamlyn Kathmandu

Opposition leaders in Nepal are angered by the Queen's apparent endorsement of the royal overthrow of parliamentary democracy 25 years ago.

During her state visit last week, the Queen praised the partyless Panchayat system, developing in Nepal since the multi-party parliament was brought to an end by King Mahendra, which is set to hold its second election on May 12.

The leaders of the banned Nepali Congress Party (NCP) have questioned why the Queen paid tribute to what it sees as a slow, if not negligible, progression towards democracy.

He said he would not let the party go into elections "unless and until I am sure we can get an absolute majority". Still, if parties do not contest the election, factions will. It will be clear to voters which candidates support the government of Mr Lokendra Bahadur Chand and which support the tougher, more experienced former Prime Minister Mr Surya Bahadur Thapa, who fell from power in 1983 when a group of Panchayat members opposed to his authoritarian style, suddenly found an ally in the palace.

Mr Thapa accuses Mr Chand of having no grip on politics. "The economy is completely out of control. He is not capable of leadership". In return, Mr Chand's supporters accuse Mr Thapa of "Walpolean" behaviour while others speak darkly of the amount of disposable funds he amassed during his three years in power.

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A small boy helping to prepare for the Communist Party congress by sweeping up snow in Red Square, Moscow.

Stage is set for Gorbachov the great reformer

From Christopher Walker Moscow



When the 27th congress of the ruling Communist Party opens tomorrow in the Kremlin's imposing Palace of Congresses, it will be 30 years to the day since the late Nikita Khrushchev delivered his remarkable anti-Stalin speech to a closed session of 1,500 delegates attending the 20th congress.

Although some aspects of Soviet life have changed dramatically in the meantime, the congress - which now involves about 5,000 delegates - remains the ultimate authority within the party, and because of the all-pervasive links between party and government, the ultimate authority in the political system.

Despite this theoretical power, votes are traditionally unanimous and much of the procedure (most of which takes place behind closed doors) little more than rubber-stamping of decisions taken in even more secretive surroundings. Primarily, the meeting will provide a showcase for the domestic and foreign policies of Mikhail Gorbachov, who will outline them in a four-and-a-half-hour address.

Since 1956, congresses have been convened in the capital every five years, the date coinciding with the start of the new five-year plan, the lynchpin of the party's control of an economy spanning over 270 million people. This year, delegates will also be presented with an amended set of party rules and a new 15-year programme notably more realistic than the previous blueprint presented by Mr Khrushchev in 1961.

According to that programme, which was to prove increasing embarrassment to subsequent Soviet leaders, Russia would today have become a greater industrial power than the US, travel and accommodation would be free and most countries in the world, including Britain, would have gone Communist. The 1986 model is much more ambiguous.

In the costly pre-congress publicity build-up, attention has been turned on the individual delegates from the country's 15 republics. All have been selected at local level, often because of outstanding achievements in their place of work rather than for any particular political acumen.

Among them will be a Siberian farmhand who produced a record milk yield from his herd, a shipyard worker from Archangel who suggested an incentive scheme for boosting productivity and the party secretary from Polyelnic Number 22 in Minsk, who is

credited with securing a 13 per cent cut in diseases at local kindergartens.

What all delegates have in common is membership of the party, a distinction enjoyed by roughly 18 million Soviet citizens, or about 10 per cent of the adult population. Membership, open from the age of 18 upwards, is tightly controlled and depends on recommendation from three party veterans, who must each have served for at least five years.

Membership usually ensures rapid career advancement, and is all but essential for anyone with political ambitions. As well as conferring privileges for those who rise up the bureaucratic ladder (ranging from special food shops to superior medical treatment), it also requires obligations - such as the need to be seen adhering strictly to Mr Gorbachov's new anti-alcohol campaign.

In the heady pre-congress period, there have been unprecedented complaints in the official press about the unfair-

More pleas to join spouses in US

Moscow (Reuters) - Ten Soviet citizens married to Americans appealed to the forthcoming party congress yesterday to let them join their spouses in the US. The group said in a telegram: "We... put our hopes in you for the reunification of our families". After last November's Soviet-US summit at least nine other Soviet citizens with spouses or relatives in the US were told they could leave.

ness of these perks - which are expected to come under growing attack - and about the difficulty many citizens find in joining. Two brothers from Stavrov wrote angrily to Pravda: "In some institutions there is a waiting list for years to join the party. What are those who strive to get into such a strange queue thirsting for? Perhaps for those privileges which we are now decisively renouncing? A queue for the party is absurd. The party is not a supermarket."

The party's grip over the running of the country is symbolized by the importance being attached to the congress, which although not a policy-making occasion in the Western sense, will provide a unique pointer to the direction in which the Soviet Union will be guided during the early, revolutionary years of the Gorbachov era.

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7 If the interest on a Bond is not paid on the date of payment, it will be added to the principal of the Bond and will be repaid as part of the redemption of the Bond. In the case of a Bond purchased on the last day of a month, the interest will be added to the principal of the Bond and will be repaid as part of the redemption of the Bond.

8 The Treasury may from time to time vary the Treasury rate upon giving the investor notice.

9 The Treasury may from time to time vary the interest rate and dates on which interest is payable upon giving notice and may also vary the date of payment of interest on a Bond with the consent of the Treasury. The date of payment of interest on a Bond will be the date of the next issue of the prospectus issued by the Director of Savings, except in the case of a Bond purchased on the last day of a month.

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12 Where an application for repayment of a Bond is made after the death of the sole or joint investor, the Treasury will pay the principal and interest on the Bond and will also pay interest at the Treasury rate from the date of purchase up to the date of repayment, whether or not repayment occurs before the last anniversary of the purchase.

13 Any application for repayment of a Bond must be made in writing to the Bonds and Stock Office, Blackpool, and accompanied by the investment certificate. The period of notice given by the Bondholder will be adjusted from the date of purchase to the date of repayment.

14 Application may be made for repayment of part of a Bond in an amount of £1,000 or a multiple of that sum provided that the total of Bonds remaining after the part repayment will still fall within the minimum holding limit imposed by paragraph 2. It is a condition of any such application that the investor will continue to hold the remaining balance until the same date of purchase and the same interest dates as were applicable to the original Bond immediately prior to repayment.

PAYMENTS

15 Interest will be payable direct to a National Savings Bank or other bank account or credited to the investor's post account. Capital will be repayable direct to a National Savings Bank, or by credit to the investor's post account.

MINORS

16 A Bond held by a minor under the age of seven years, either singly or jointly with any other person, will not be repayable except with the consent of the Director of Savings.

TRANSFER

17 Bonds will not be transferable except with the consent of the Director of Savings. The Director of Savings may, at his discretion, allow the transfer of Bonds to a minor or to a person who is not a British citizen, but the transfer will be subject to the conditions set out in paragraph 16. The transfer of Bonds to a minor or to a person who is not a British citizen will be subject to the conditions set out in paragraph 16. The transfer of Bonds to a minor or to a person who is not a British citizen will be subject to the conditions set out in paragraph 16.

NOTICE

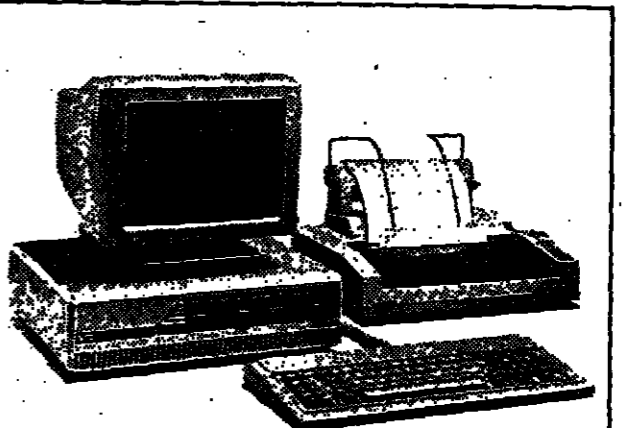
18 The Treasury will give any notice required under paragraph 2, 5, 6, 9 or 11 of the prospectus in the London Gazette and the London Gazette and in any other manner which it may think fit. The notice may be given by the Director of Savings in the London Gazette and in any other manner which it may think fit.

GUARANTEED LIFE OF BONDS

19 A Bond may be held for a guaranteed period of 10 years from the first date on which it is issued from the date of purchase. The investor must continue to pay the interest on the Bond until the end of the guaranteed period. The interest on the Bond will be added to the principal of the Bond and will be repaid as part of the redemption of the Bond. The interest on the Bond will be added to the principal of the Bond and will be repaid as part of the redemption of the Bond.

Ershad on defensive

Dhaka - Army units around Dhaka were put on alert and extra police brought into the city yesterday, Interior Ministry sources said (Ahmed Fazl writes). The military government of President Ershad was preparing to meet a new wave of protest from the opposition. Sheikh Hasina Wazed, chief of the 15-party alliance, has called for a grand rally today in the capital's northern Sher-e-Bangla Nagar District in a fresh challenge to martial law.



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Philippines crisis: ● 3,000 arrests planned ● Washington takes sides ● Men behind challenge

Marcos is accused of making hit list to liquidate opposition

From David Watts, Manila

The Times learnt on Friday afternoon that the Government was planning the arrest of some 3,000 opposition supporters.

During the press conference a helicopter loaded with arms and supplies for the men held up in the ministry.

Mr Enrile told the press conference: "I am asking my fellow Cabinet ministers who are decent to get out of the Government and not support an illegitimate regime."

Son accused

Arnel Salvatierra, aged 17, is expected to be arrested and charged today with the murder of his father, Mr Oscar Salvatierra - a top executive of an anti-Marcos Filipino American newspaper (Ivor Davis writes from Los Angeles). Police said he tried to make the shooting look like a political assassination.

Mr Enrile said the press conference was held to head the will of the people expressed during the last election because in my own region I know that we cheated the election to the extent of 350,000 votes.

General Ramos said prominent people, including Mr Benjamin Romualdez, the Ambassador to the United States, and Mr Edmundo Cojuangco, one of Mr Marcos's friends who controls the sugar industry among others, had received a lot of firearms.



Manila citizens surrounding tanks that had been heading under orders for the military complex held by anti-Marcos rebels.

The Pope prays for bloodless solution

Rome (AP) - The Pope yesterday prayed for a just and bloodless solution to the crisis. About 1,000 Filipinos - many of them carrying yellow banners, the colour of opposition leader Mrs Corazon Aquino - heard the Pope pray from his window on St Peter's Square.

The Filipinos arrived in St Peter's Square after a short march carrying banners that read: "We are with our bishops and our people" and "Liberty and peace for the Philippines".

An unlikely duo driven to desperate measures

Manila - Mr Juan Ponce Enrile, the Philippines Defence Minister, and Lieutenant-General Fidel Ramos, chief of the national police, were isolated yesterday in Manila's police headquarters with relatively few loyal troops to protect them.



Mrs Corazon Aquino and Senator Salvador Laurel greeting 20,000 supporters in Cebu City.

Philippines, he has been part of the system for the power that it engenders as well as for the contribution that he may be making to the state.

General Ramos, like Mr Enrile, is a founder member of the Military Reform Movement, which has been trying to persuade Mr Marcos to stop

the steady slide in the quality of the military, now so top-heavy with relatives and friends of the Marcos family and so riven with factionalism and corruption that the campaign against the communist New People's Army is being hampered. The reform movement was founded in March.

White House gives open backing to the rebels

From Michael Binyon, Washington

The White House gave open support to the Philippines Defence Minister and the acting Chief of Staff in their rebellion against President Marcos, moving closer than ever before to calling directly on him to resign.

With Mr Philip Habib, the US special envoy to the Philippines, who returned here on Saturday, President Reagan approved a statement endorsing the opposition declaration that "the mandate of the people does not belong to the regime".

The White House said: "These statements strongly reinforce our concern that the recent presidential elections were marred by fraud, perpetrated overwhelmingly by the ruling party, so extreme as to undermine the credibility and legitimacy of the election and impair the capacity of the Government of the Philippines to cope with a growing insurgency and a troubled economy."

AIR CANADA advertisement featuring the text 'AIR CANADA HAVE JUST WON THE PRESTIGIOUS AIR TRANSPORT WORLD PASSENGER SERVICE AWARD FOR 1985. IN THE PROCESS THEY HAVE BEATEN THE FOLLOWING AIRLINES.' followed by a long list of airline names including Aeroflot, Air Canada, Air France, British Airways, etc.

Curtain up on a new French revolution

The next general election will probably be one of the most important in France for more than a quarter of a century. March 16, polling day, will almost certainly be a turning point in modern French history. For the first time under the Fifth Republic, France is likely to have a government whose political hue is opposed to that of its President. Some fear that this will cause a constitutional crisis. Yet rarely has an election campaign (carried on unofficially for the past couple of months) been so lacklustre.

One reason for the lack of excitement is the dearth of new ideas among the main political parties, combined with the general public's widespread scepticism that any party will find a solution for the problem that concerns them most — unemployment. Almost 2.4 million people are now unemployed, 600,000 more than in 1981 when the Socialists came to power promising to reduce their number.

The party manifestos are very similar

The most striking thing about the manifestos of the two major political formations — the Socialists on the left and the Alliance of the Gaullist Rassemblement Pour La République (RPR) and the Union Pour La Démocratie Française (UDF) on the right — is their similarity.

There is no doubt that the Socialists have shifted to the right since they came to power, but the right has also shifted to the centre, largely in reaction to the emergence of the National Front on the extreme right. Of course there are differences. The right wants to denationalize the banks, insurance companies, and large industrial groups nationalized by the Socialists. It wants to cut taxes, particularly for business and the highest-paid, by some 40 billion francs (£4 billion) a year, abolish the wealth tax imposed by the Socialists and to move faster than the left in liberalizing the economy.

On the other hand, it has undertaken to keep the Socialists' main social reforms, which it initially vehemently opposed: the fifth paid week's holiday, retirement at 60, and improvements in family benefits, social security payments, and pensions. It has agreed to keep the guaranteed minimum wage. It has no plans to reintroduce the death penalty, abolished by the Socialists, and it approves of Socialist attempts to find as many alternatives to prison as possible.

France's election campaign starts today — and for the first time in recent history, a president may have to share power with his political enemies

possible. It has apparently dropped plans to expel unemployed immigrants and to stop supplementary family benefits for non-French families.

Both sides seem to concentrate on criticizing one another and speculating on political life after March 16. The most likely outcome is considered to be one in which Jacques Chirac, as leader of the RPR, the biggest party in the new parliament, is called upon to form a coalition with the UDF. But the President would be under no obligation to choose Chirac. He may prefer a right-wing moderate, or a Socialist, but whoever it was must be able to win a majority in the national assembly.

Even if the two main opposition parties won an absolute majority and M Chirac was appointed prime minister, it is by no means clear what would happen. Supporters of Raymond Barre may refuse to back the government, in which case new elections would have to be called. Or the new government may clash with the President on some vital issue, bringing administration to a standstill and forcing a new election. Thanks to proportional representation, this could result in a parliament of similar complexity and political stalemate.

The president could, of course, resign. But he has no desire to go down in history as the first president to be forced out of office. And Chirac has a vested interest in working with Mitterrand — he wants to use the office of prime minister to build up his prestige for the 1988 presidential election and the fight against his most dangerous rival, Raymond Barre.

The campaign posters have echoed the dearth of real issues. Immigration was expected to be one but the debate has somehow never quite got off the ground. The National Front, which has made immigration its top campaign issue, appears to have been losing support recently.

Another reason for the lack of excitement lies in the new system of proportional representation, to be used for the first time in the election. Instead of a straight fight between individual candidates in single constituencies, French voters will now be asked to choose between different lists of candidates put forward by the various parties in each of the 105 departments and overseas territories of the Republic.

The deputies will be elected in accordance with the proportion of votes obtained by their list, their position on that list, and the number of seats allocated to their department. Thus a candidate in third place on a list in a four-seat department knows that his list will have to get about 75 per cent of the vote.

Under the new system, results can be predicted with much greater accuracy than in the past. Not only can it already be guaranteed — barring some major cataclysm — that the Socialists will lose their present majority in the National Assembly, but the names of as many as 448 of the 577 deputies in the new assembly can already be given.

Some critics had feared that the new voting system would lead to a proliferation of small parties, but in fact the opposite is likely to happen. More than half the departments have four or fewer seats, which means that a party must get at least 25 per cent of the vote in order to get a single candidate elected in those departments. That is more than twice the predicted national score of either the National Front or the Communist Party.

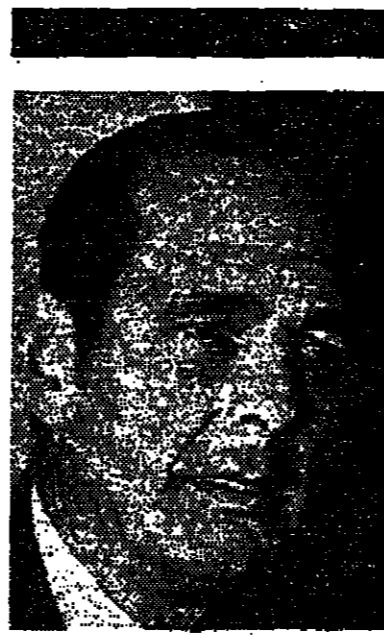
Small parties could be nearly wiped out

In only two departments, the Nord and Paris, are there a sufficient number of seats (20 or more) for a party with only 5 per cent of the vote to stand a chance of winning a seat. The little parties are likely to be virtually annihilated.

It has been estimated that a party or alliance would need about 43 per cent of the total national vote to win the 289 seats needed to form an absolute majority in the new parliament. The UDF-RPR alliance currently scores between 43 and 46 per cent in the opinion polls. It has ruled out any question of a pact with the National Front, and has said it will not form a government unless it wins an absolute majority.

The Socialists, who know they have no chance of increasing their present score of 28-31 per cent to win an absolute majority, say they are prepared to form a minority government. Some, indeed, say it should be their right to do so if they remain the largest single party in Parliament, which is possible. The Socialists have not totally ruled out a future alliance with the Communists, but say it is out of the question at present. The Communists agree. So the Socialists are blithely talking of attracting a sufficient number of individual moderates to give them the support they need to form a viable government. Quite where these individuals will come from, no one knows.

Diana Geddes



Jacques Chirac

Aged 53. Mayor of Paris. Leader of the Gaullist RPR Party. Prime minister under Giscard d'Estaing. Flamboyant, dynamic, a product of the Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA), but someone who often gives the impression of speaking before he thinks. Has a large and loyal personal following, but is not a good television performer. Most likely candidate as next prime minister. Has an interest in making "cohabitation" with Mitterrand work if only to do down his major rival, Raymond Barre.

RPR

Created by Jacques Chirac in 1976 out of the former Gaullist Union des Démocrates pour la République. A right-wing populist party representing a broad cross-section of society. The largest, most disciplined, and best organized of the opposition parties. Has 62 seats in the National Assembly, but is expected to share up to 309 seats with the UDF. President: Jacques Chirac. General Secretary: Jacques Toubon.



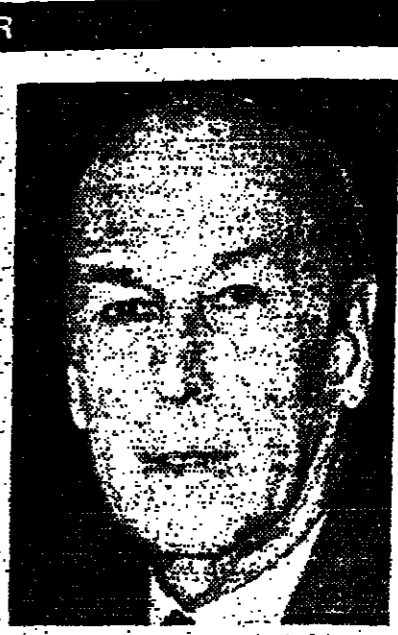
Raymond Barre

Aged 61. Prime minister under Giscard d'Estaing. Deputy for the Rhône, affiliated to the UDF group in the National Assembly. Considered one of the three main opposition leaders, although he has consistently refused to take over the leadership of any party and has declined to form his own. Aloof, ironic, and highly intelligent. This round former professor of economics has managed to leap from the very bottom of the popularity stakes in the opinion polls to the very top. He refuses to contemplate "cohabitation"

RPR-UDF MANIFESTO

Lift all remaining price controls immediately, and lift other restrictive economic controls as soon as possible. Denationalize progressively over the next five years the banks, insurance companies and large industrial groups nationalized by the Socialists. In the long term, denationalize all competitive public companies. Privatize two of the three state television channels. Cut taxes and levies by 40 billion francs (£4 billion) a year. Abolish

wealth tax and reduce top income tax rate from 65 per cent to 50 per cent. No automatic right to French citizenship for children of immigrants born in France on reaching the age of 18. Increase police force. Increase defence spending to build up both nuclear force and conventional armed forces. Support the American Star Wars missile initiative. Promote construction of Europe and European defence.



Valéry Giscard d'Estaing

Aged 60. President of France 1974-1981. Deputy for the Puy du Dôme since 1984. Sits with UDF group in parliament, but has no real party of his own. No longer has much influence either with UDF or the country. Is nevertheless considered one of the three main opposition leaders and still listened to with respect. Remains a possible candidate for the presidential elections in 1988, though his chances are thought slim. An ascetic, cold, brilliant man who has never managed to touch the hearts of the people.

UDF

Loose federation of parties formed in 1978, ranging from the centre to the far right, including the Centre des Démocrates Sociaux (CDS) and the Gaullist Parti Républicain (PR). Highly volatile, divided in its allegiance, and without any clear leader. Most outgoing CDS deputies and a number of PR deputies support Raymond Barre, but he has consistently refused to take leadership of a party. Former President Giscard d'Estaing, once the leading light in the UDF, no longer carries much weight. The President of the UDF, Jean Lecanet, although a former minister, has had little impact or influence. François Léotard, the young general secretary of PR, is emerging as a national figure.

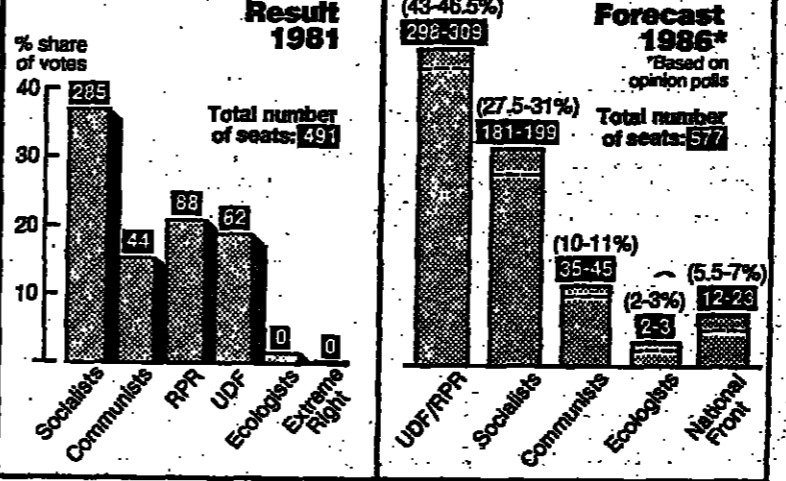


Georges Marchais

Aged 65. He has been secretary of the French Communist Party since 1972 and deputy for Val-de-Marne since 1973. In 1974 and 1981 he was an unsuccessful presidential candidate. In behind-the-scenes battles he has beaten off several attempts by the rank-and-file to remove him as party leader and replace him with someone younger, brighter, more modern and attractive. Knows how to work the party machine and play moderates off against hard-liners. He is a survivor and a fighter, but has lost much of the pugnacity and sparkle that made him a popular television figure in the 1981 election campaign.

COMMUNIST

Founded in 1920. Reigning as the largest left-wing party in France for more than 40 years, consistently getting between 20 and 25 per cent of the vote. They are now credited with only about 11 per cent of voting intentions. An attempt by members with Euro-Communist sympathies to reform and modernize the party after its severe setback in the European Parliament elections in 1984 failed. First Secretary Georges Marchais and the pro-Moscow hardliners still hold sway, although they have learnt to moderate their tone over the years. The party is vehemently opposed to "flexible" work patterns. Wants reinduction in working week and time off for vocational retraining without loss of pay. Increase income tax for the wealthiest and double wealth tax. Progressive reduction of retirement age with priority for blue-collar workers. Increase all state benefits, with a guaranteed minimum of 7,500 francs (£250) a month for all over 65. Stop influx of immigrants, but improve conditions of those already here. Possible vote for immigrants in local elections. Fight crime by fighting poverty. Retain French nuclear force, but promote progressive world disarmament. No to "Star Wars". No to European defence. No to military integration into Nato.



François Mitterrand

Aged 69. President of France since 1981. Former first secretary of the Socialist Party. As President, he claims he no longer belongs to any party, but has been campaigning hard for the Socialists. His personal involvement could, however, mean greater pressure on him to resign in the event of a severe Socialist defeat. He insists, however, that he has been

directly elected by the people and means to serve his full seven-year term. He gives no hint of how he will behave if confronted by a right-wing government, only that he will not remain "inert". His popularity, which hit a record low for any Fifth Republic president, has been steadily rising. Has a reputation for being dangerous when his back is up against a wall.

SOCIALIST

Although Socialist parties in France can date their origins back to 1893, the present Socialist Party was formed in 1971 out of a number of existing left-wing parties. Often divided within itself, the party has succeeded in hiding its differences during the present campaign and to unite itself behind its former leader and founder, François Mitterrand. Manifesto pledges to continue along the present

path of modernizing France, seeking greater flexibility at work, stabilizing taxes and levies. A guaranteed minimum income for all (there is no social security in France). Oppose denationalization, but want greater "flexibility" in running of nationalized companies. Stamp out illegal immigration, provide grants for those who wish to return home. Strengthen nuclear force. Condemn Star Wars initiative.



Jean-Marie Le Pen

Aged 57. President of the National Front. A former paratrooper, son of a Breton fisherman. Has degrees in law and political science. Long career on the far-right margins of politics. His clean-cut good looks, sense of humour, and energy attract a cross-section of conservative French society. He denies he is a racist and has won every libel case against those who made that charge. National Front presidential candidate in 1974, winning 10.9 per cent of the vote. Elected to the European parliament in 1984. He confidently predicts a National Front poll of around 15 per cent with 50 to 100 seats. The party has no seats at the moment.

NATIONAL FRONT

Founded in 1972 by Jean-Marie Le Pen, now party president. Obtained less than 2 per cent of the vote until the rise in racism in France at the time of the 1983 economic crisis. In the 1984 European elections got 10.9 per cent of the vote, almost level with the Communists. Manifesto promises to abolish all restraints on the economy, reduce union power and promote individual contracts between employer and employee. Progressively replace income tax by indirect taxation. Replace state social security system as far as possible by private insurance schemes. Give priority of jobs to French nationals. Expel immigrants who lose their jobs or who are found guilty of crimes. No family and social security benefits for immigrants. No automatic French nationality for those from France's former North African colonies. Bring back death penalty. Stricter discipline in prisons. No remission on prison sentences. Increase spending on national and civil defence. Abolish conscription.



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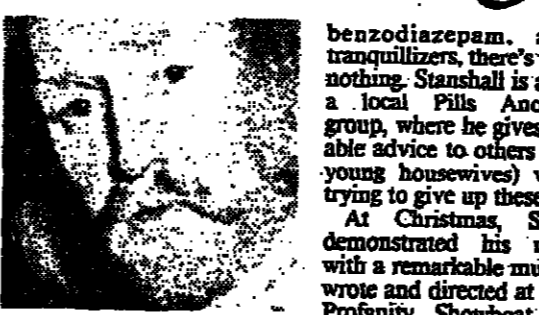
Please help to keep this vital service going. Your donation, or your legacy, will mean a fuller life for so many people.

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Still life in the old Dog

Emerging from a pill strewn lost weekend of 14 years' duration, the pop humorist Vivian Stanshall (right) is getting back to abnormal



able and anxious workaholic, and one day in 1971 I collapsed on the floor and woke up to find I'd been prescribed pills to calm me down. At first it was 30 milligrams a day, but within a short time I found I could not function without them. At the time I wholly believed in doctors and by 1976 I was taking between 200 and 300 milligrams of Valium and Librium a day. Then I'd have the booze to accelerate the effect of the pills.

In 1984 Stanshall was on his own, living in one room in his decaying submarine-chaser, suffering increasingly severe anxiety attacks and acute agoraphobia. Friends eventually got him to try various cures, and at Broadway Lodge near Weston-super-Mare he was eventually weaned.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (NO 883)

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

Advertisement for 'FOR A CLEAR VOICE AND THROAT' medicine, featuring a product image and text.

كردنا من الأصل

Parallel voices amid Africa's discord

In a country where women, both white and black, think of themselves as having little role to play outside the home, a remarkable number have actively opposed apartheid. The names of two women, operating from different sides of the colour bar, stand out - Helen Suzman, the veteran white opposition

MP, and Winnie Mandela, the wife of the jailed African National Congress (ANC) leader, Nelson Mandela. In exclusive interviews with Michael Hornsby, they talk about each other, their political differences, and a future in which they might even belong to the same party.

How long have I known Helen? Oh heavens, for years. I admire her terribly. She is one of the few very well-meaning white South Africans. Her struggle has been just and honest. Many of her views are shared by all of us. For a long time she was a lone voice in white South Africa, in the white Parliament, one of the few voices that expressed to some extent our views. I remember particularly that she visited my husband and other political prisoners on Robben Island during those early years when conditions were extremely difficult for them in prison. Together with the Red Cross, she played a major role in getting their conditions improved. She has really been the conscience of white South Africa. Her fight against apartheid has been a very just and a very honourable one. Within the limits set by the South African racist regime, she has played a very valuable role, and I don't think she has now reached the limits of what she as a white South African can do to fight apartheid from within the system.

It is, of course, up to her to decide whether the time has come to leave Parliament. She must be free to choose her own political path. But, personally, I cannot see any room any more for a purely white opposition to racist Pretoria. The Botha regime has successfully destroyed the role of a white (Liberal) opposition. That has been confirmed by the resignation of Van Zyl Stabbert. He was quite right in believing that he was getting nowhere.

Helen may not like to admit it publicly, but the fact is that there is only one opposition to a racist South Africa and that is the African National Congress. Pretoria is still talking about reforming apartheid. We have never fought for a reformed apartheid regime. We are not fighting for a glorified apartheid regime. Our fight is for the total abolition of apartheid. We no longer see any role for gradualism, because Pretoria has told us in so many words that it is not prepared to end apartheid even by gradual, negotiated change. Pretoria doesn't speak that kind of language.

That doesn't mean there is no role for liberal whites opposed to the government. We still believe we can play a very meaningful role together. Our doors have always been open to people like Helen Suzman and Stabbert. No one is

asking them to join Umkhonto We Sizwe or the African National Congress while it is still banned. But they could join the United Democratic Front. In the end, all the democratic forces of the country will have to unite to bring down the racist regime in Pretoria.

I have always disagreed with Helen's opposition to economic sanctions. But she is not in the dog-house (loud laugh). Our disagreements do not affect our relationship at all. I understand that she is speaking from a white perspective. But we are rather sick and tired of hearing from whites that we are the ones who would suffer (from sanctions) as if we are not already suffering. We are saying that we want to suffer once and for all and shorten our pain, and sanctions are the only peaceful course that is open to us to bring the government to its knees. South Africa itself has shown by its treatment of Lesotho, its strangling of poor little Lesotho, what sanctions can do. They brought down Leabua in a week. We are asking the international community to do exactly the same thing to South Africa as South Africa did to Lesotho.

It is nonsensical speculation to say that my husband's views have changed in prison or that he has become a communist. He remains a nationalist, and he remains committed to the oppressed people of his country. His views are identical with those he expressed and expounded in his speech at his trial in 1964. I don't know what a Communist is in South Africa. The government calls all its opponents communists. Mandela is totally committed to the views expressed in the Freedom Charter. He believes in a future South Africa which is for all, a constitution that embodies everyone irrespective of colour.

Helen says she does not know whether Mandela would still have the support of the radicalized young blacks of today. The answer to that lies in the fact that to this day children who were not born when he went into prison sing his name and eulogize the man. His name is synonymous with the liberation of the oppressed people of this country. Personally, I am not interested in political office. I am just part and parcel of the struggle of the people, and I will continue to play my own little role which I consider is an honour for me. I have no ambitions beyond that.

You know, it's very difficult to remember when I first met Winnie. I think I probably made contact with her the first time I visited her husband, Nelson, on Robben Island, and that would have been back in 1967. She is a woman of great personal charm and vivacity. She's very articulate and extremely good-looking. As a politician, she's damned shrewd. She plays her cards very well, and knows how to handle the media. She always gives them their money's worth either in quotable quotes or just by looking ravishing. And of course, the government has played right into her hands by its ludicrous harassment of her.

I think the way she has weathered the very hard life of having her husband locked up all these years shows a lot of guts. She has also retained a remarkable sense of humour. There is no trace of self-pity or anti-white racism in her. She takes people as people and either likes them or not, regardless of race. She's a formidable enemy, and a very warm friend. She's no shrinking violet, and even if Nelson were to be freed, I don't think she'd be content to play the little woman, if I have judged her correctly.

On one occasion when I visited Winnie in Brandfort the special branch descended on us. We sat and chatted while the big, burly fellows went round confiscating papers and taking books off the shelves. They ended up by taking a black, green and yellow bedspread off the bed in her room. I said: "What on earth are you taking that for?" The police just looked at me. Then I said, "Ah, I see now, ANC (African National Congress) colours, this is a subversive bedspread". Winnie and I had a good laugh over that.

That was two or three years ago. Since then I have only been in contact with her by phone and letter, or through her lawyer. She hasn't confirmed it to me personally, but I think I may be in the dog-house because I haven't taken the line of calling for international economic sanctions. Sanctions would hurt all of us, black and white, as well as neighbouring countries. It is easy for Winnie to say liberation because she hasn't got a job that would be threatened by sanctions. She's also deluded in thinking that sanctions would be a short, sharp campaign, leading to the collapse of the government. It wouldn't be like that. It would be a long war of attrition during which



Over the colour bar: Helen Suzman (left) and Winnie Mandela with a bedspread in African National Congress colours which was given to Mrs Mandela by American congressmen soon after a similar bedspread had been confiscated by Brandfort prison officers. The two women have not met since

the government would withdraw into its laager and its resistance to change would be stiffened, not weakened. Economic sanctions imposed from within the country by the growing power of black trade unions make much more sense to me. But the unions need to build up their strength and organization first.

Winnie says I should follow Slabbert's example and leave Parliament. I can't agree. It would be tragic if the opposition in Parliament consisted only of right-wing elements who would do their best to stop the government's already filtering racial reforms in their tracks. Like it or not, political power in this country is still in white hands and Parliament is at present the only place where changes can be turned into legislation and the government questioned and held to account. The role of the extra-parliamentary opposition is very important, and

I see it as complimentary to, and not in conflict with, what I am doing. Our objectives may not be identical in every respect, but they are certainly identical in wanting to get rid of apartheid.

I have little doubt that the ANC has the support of the majority of blacks. The government has got to take the plunge and release Mandela and the other political prisoners and unban the ANC and negotiate with it. I don't pretend it wouldn't be a gamble. A lot would depend on whether the ANC, given freedom to operate legally, would go for non-violent methods. The government would also have to make big concessions, dismantle apartheid and be prepared to discuss the transfer of political power. That's not going to be easy.

Personally, I would have no problems in sitting round a negotiating table with people like Winnie and Nelson. Obviously,

whether we could work in the same party would depend on whether we could agree on the same policies. It is hard to tell what sort of press freedom and free association, what degree of economic free enterprise, and so on, would be allowed under an ANC government. The present ANC leaders, like Oliver Tambo and as far as I know, Mandela, say they want these things, but whether the oldtime black nationalists would still be calling the shots then is another matter. One doesn't know how far the really radical elements have gone beyond black nationalism, and want a black marxist government, with no element of a free society. I don't believe that either Winnie or Nelson favour that kind of extremism. They might have to in order to retain leadership, but I don't think that would be their natural instinct. We shall have to see.

BIOGRAPHIES

Mandela
Nanzama "she who strives"
Winnie Mandela was born in 1934 at Bizana in Pondoland, part of the Xhosa-speaking Transkei, the daughter of a teacher. She married Nelson Mandela in 1958. Her elder by 16 years, he was already a member of the national executive of the African National Congress (ANC). She herself was active in the organization until it was banned in 1960. In 1964 her husband was convicted of sabotage and sentenced to life imprisonment. With her husband in jail, she has worked tirelessly, despite constant police harassment, to keep his name alive. Since 1976 she has been a "banned" person, subject to restrictions on her movements. She was held in solitary confinement for 17 months in 1969-70.

Suzman
Helen Suzman has been a member of the South African Parliament for 32 years, representing the Johannesburg constituency of Houghton. For 13 years she was the only anti-apartheid voice in Parliament. Born on November 7, 1917, just outside Johannesburg, Suzman was the second daughter of Samuel and Frieda Gavronsky, Jewish immigrants from Lithuania. She was first returned to Parliament in April, 1953, as a member of the United Party. Suzman and a small group of other United Party MPs broke away to form the Progressive Party, which became the official opposition. She has been a relentless critic of the government's security legislation, conditions in its prisons and abuses of human rights.

FOOTNOTES

- 1. The Alcatraz-style prison on an island in Table Bay.
- 2. President P. W. Botha, Head of State.
- 3. Dr Frederick van Zyl Stabbert, Leader of the Progressive Federal Party, the main Opposition in the House of Assembly, from 1979 until February 7 of this year, when he resigned.
- 4. Umkhonto We Sizwe (Zulu for "Spear of the Nation") is the military arm of the African National Congress.
- 5. The United Democratic Front, launched in 1983, a loose coalition of more than 500 anti-apartheid groups.
- 6. Chief Leabua Jonathan, former prime minister of Lesotho, replaced last month by a military council.
- 7. At his trial Mandela said he regarded himself "in the first place as an African patriot". He was not a communist.
- 8. The Freedom Charter was approved by a Congress of the People in 1955 and adopted by the ANC as its manifesto.
- 9. Oliver Tambo is the acting President of the ANC.

Too good to be true

"You finish this book feeling better...You believe you can do it too", reads a review in *Punch* of Lee Iacocca's autobiography. Speak for yourself, *Punch*. I know perfectly well that I would only have to get three pages into Mr Iacocca's book before I began to feel very much worse. Far from being convinced that I, like Mr I, could save an ailing motor company and be in the running for President of the United States, I would get that horrible conviction that I am the sort of inadequate who couldn't find her way out of a paper bag.

That is the trouble with autobiographies - everyone who writes one seems to have blessings showered upon them from the cradle to the grave. Even if they grow up in slums, their parents are wildly supportive and take in washing so that their baby can finish high school. They either marry their childhood sweetheart and live happily ever after, or have one of those mutually regretful divorces where both sides agree that it's for the best and vow to remain friends for ever. People in autobiographies never admit to having rows over who is to retain custody of the best dinner-service or wishing that their ex-husband would lose all his hair - both of which are common practice in real life.

When autobiographers get ill, their sickness is of a thrillingly dramatic nature providing untepid cliff-hangers: "The doctors said I would never recover but I knew that I had to. I'd be letting Marjorie and the kids down", so that they become resulting in them becoming far, far better people than they were before. Common ailments like corns, indigestion and prostate trouble seem to pass them by.

Their children are always good-looking, talented and affectionate with maybe a touch of youthful high-spirits during adolescence. "We still laugh at the time Junior backed his car into a hamburger joint right after the Senior Prom but Betty Sue and I talked it over and decided to buy the kid a Rolls Royce for his 17th birthday and were thrilled to see that being held responsible for his own possessions made him much more careful."



PENNY PERRICK

position where he is today without a certain amount of skulduggery and back-stabbing. But autobiographers never have to learn how to make enemies and destroy people. Generous-minded colleagues who know a great talent when they see it clear a path so that Our Hero can take over the role of Hamlet at and five minutes notice/take command of a secret military operation/take over the chairmanship of International United Combined Trading Limited.

The number one problem with autobiographies is that the authors of them manage to have everything: wonderful heart-warming relationships with their parents, spouses and children; the finest co-operation of their colleagues; and a close circle of friends, some of whom go back to the time when they all did a paper-round together as skinny four-year-olds.

The questions one wants answered is how, if they stay up every night planning takeover bids and spend every day zooming around the country in their private jet, do they have all the wonderful, heart-warming relationships. In the middle of most autobiographies is a thick wodge of photographs in which no one ever has the sun in their eyes, a ladder in their stocking or a frown on their face. How is this? Do autobiographers hire Lord Snowdon at an early stage in their careers to take the family snapshots? There are two reasons why I could never write my autobiography: the first is that I couldn't afford the libel bills and the second is

that my family photograph album is a lengthy record of yelling babies, slipping bras, uncombed hair and honeymoon couples who have quite obviously not been on speaking terms for a considerable length of time.

I think my attitude towards the self-confessedly successful is perfectly normal. Like everyone else, I just want them to pay the price of fame. I should like them to come home one evening shouting, "Honey, I just made a million, squillion smackerels on the Consolidated Amalgamated deal", when their eyes fall on a note informing them that Honey has run off to New Mexico with her hairdresser.

In fact, I shouldn't be surprised if their lives do have a few little hiccups here and there but to learn about them, we usually have to wait for a biography - the unauthorized version.

My hotel room in Paris had no television, shoe-cleaning kit or coffee-making equipment. Instead it had a brass bedstead on a bed that encouraged friendly relations to break out. Every available surface was covered in den-of-iniquity red plush and swagged, draped and glided within an inch of its life. The only view was of pigeons on the roof-top across the street getting up to no good. This also seemed to add to the romance. It would be difficult to find such a room in a London hotel. Luxury there is considered to be a king-size bed, a television with remote control to watch while you are in it and masses of gleaming storage-space painted in anti-septic-looking white. To spot the difference between the English and the French you need look no further than what each nation considers to be de-huxe sleeping arrangements.

I cannot think how I could have mistaken Noel Coward's Nina from Argentina for somebody completely different called Lola, as I did in last week's column. But I did and several readers have put me right and taken the trouble to write out the complete lyric in its various versions, which I am now committing to memory. I am also going back to the Master's song-book to check that it really was Alice who was at it again, before I cause any more confusions.

TALKBACK

From: Mrs Barbara Peters, St Peter Port, Guernsey

I read Caroline Moorehead's article ("When life begins at 40", 12 February) with interest, some amusement and profound relief that I did not read it some 21 years ago. It was then, at the age of 41, I gave birth to my first child after five years of marriage. My pregnancy was perfectly normal, with no sickness, morning or otherwise.

Perhaps the successful result can be attributed to the following: a doctor who was sensible enough to assure me that I was as fit as the average girl of 20; no radical change in habits; a grandmother who had her first child at 41 and a mother who had my youngest sister just before her 42nd birthday.

I have no doubt that there are many women whose experience of pregnancy in their mature years has been equally uneventful and perhaps if the experts stopped treating us as geriatric problems, providing the mother is healthy, it would be a great deal better. Older parents tend to be more stable, patient and, being far enough away from their own childhood to be objective, more understanding of the trammings of growing up. Our daughter, a bright healthy 21-year-old at University borrows her father's and my clothes, my make-up and jewellery and does not consider that, in their 60s, her parents are beyond redemption.

From: Lene Orchard, Burkes Road, Buckinghamshire

Although full of sympathy with women who want to have the best of both worlds by devoting their younger years to career building and deferring babies till they are 40 plus, I feel some reservation about this option.

When you are 40, you actually feel young, so the thought of a first baby may seem entirely reasonable. However, 10-15 years later on the picture looks different. Coping with schoolchildren turning into teenagers at an age when the mother may feel less than 100% herself, may not be the best tonic in the world. Not to speak of the financial strains of putting children through university when you are about to retire

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THE TIMES DIARY

Untrue to type

Labour inquirers looking into Tony Mulhearn's future in the party may be interested to learn that his solidarity with the far left is only skin deep.

Brittanalysis

A reader has unearthed an article of Leon Brittan's. How the Tories Can Win, in a dusty copy of The Illustrated London News of January 18, 1969.

Open book

Talking about plus ça change, another reader thinks that H. E. Chapman novel, which has just come across, must be essential reading for all Westland addicts.

Shown the door

A spot of spice this morning for the crusty colonels at the East India Club in St James's (whose members include one D. Thatcher).

Hit parade

Elton John took Watford to Wembley. Now Rick Wakeman, star of a thousand meaningful songs, is striving to do the same for Camberley Town.

Evening, Norman. Large take-over and soda

The prospect was raised publicly in January when Professor Vladimir Kostakov, a leading Soviet economist and deputy director of the research institute run by the State Planning Committee, predicted that the blueprint for streamlining the economy could make between 13 and 19 million workers in industry temporarily out of work by the year 2000.

Thatcher's new tax tactics

by Sarah Hogg

Mrs Thatcher's favourite new example of the nurse who pays too much tax is the clearest indication yet of a change of income tax policy in next month's Budget.

The big clue lies in the wage quoted by the Prime Minister - £140 a week. At this level, Mrs Thatcher's tax-burdened nurse would benefit less from the government's usual method of cutting income tax - raising the threshold - than from a straightforward cut in the 30 per cent basic rate.

After slicing 3p off the basic rate of income tax in 1979, the government has since spent all its free cash on increases in personal allowances. These have risen 15 per cent more than inflation since this government came to power.

An increase in tax allowances is the easiest tax cut. It can be done in conveniently small slices. The basic rate cannot sensibly be reduced by less than 1p at a time, and this costs £1.2 billion a year in lost revenue.

The main European concern stems from the fact that Mikhail Gorbachov has been so mischievous as to embrace a concept long associated with President Reagan - the "zero option".

When negotiations resumed in 1985 it seemed clear the any agreement would now require the Soviet Union to sanction some Nato missiles. This was confirmed in the burst of arms-control activity in the lead-up to last November's Reagan-Gorbachov summit.

The question was, how many SS-20s? The Soviet Union argued that it was necessary to take British and French missiles into account. But then on January 15 Gorbachov announced to the surprise of the West European governments that the Soviet Union now favoured the "elimination" of Intermediate Nuclear Forces in the "European zone".

When delegates to the 27th Communist Party congress gather this week to approve Mikhail Gorbachov's sweeping plans to modernize the Soviet economy, the nation will be faced with the spectre of unemployment - albeit by another name - for the first time since the official declaration in October 1930 that the problem had been eliminated.

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married man. Quite a small real increase on top of that looks misleadingly generous.

An increase in allowances attracts political support mainly because it is supposed to give most benefit to the poorest taxpayers. In fact, it actually gives most to the best off.

This certainly is not in tune with Mrs Thatcher's latest theme: that it is the bottom half of taxpayers who need help, but it is a problem rather easily dealt with.

A raising of allowances is commonly supposed to lessen the "poverty trap". In fact, that too is a misconception. The "poverty trap" catches those low-paid family men who find that any increase in earnings is virtually wiped out by the consequent loss of means-tested benefits.

The trouble is that most of these family breadwinners are clustered at income levels above the point to which the Chancellor could

hope to raise thresholds. So those "taken out of tax" by a general increase in allowances tend to be part-time working wives and pensioners.

These absurd "marginal tax rates" are in part the product of Britain's exceptionally high starting rate of tax. Most other tax systems begin well below 30 per cent, hence the growing support for a cut in the basic rate.

The trouble, again, is that the kind of reductions the Chancellor could afford would not make much difference to the depth of the poverty trap. It still might be the Chancellor's best bet.

Cutting the basic rate is an even more expensive way of helping the very poorest than raising allowances, because it gives more cash to the better-paid. Compare, for example, the effects of a penny cut in the basic rate with a 5 per cent increase in allowances, as calculated by the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

If allowances were increased, all those still in the basic-rate tax net would gain the same: close on £1 a week for married men, 65p for a single person or married woman.

The Labour Party, as William Rodgers remarked at a private meeting last week, is trying to become the SDP Mark 2.

For those of us who have some acquaintance with the Labour Party on the ground, this is laughable. Take as an example the large and thriving Labour Party in Hampstead and Highgate (one of Labour's top target seats): in the past year it has passed motions deploring the witch-hunt against Militant, approving the courageous defence of Broadwater Farm against the police, and advocating defiance of the law over rate-capping.

No so Neil Kinnock. Watching him talking to Brian Walden on Weekend World earlier this month, and subsequently reading the transcript of the interview, I am bound to agree with Bill Rodgers.

It was an extraordinarily easy and indulgent interview, particularly from such a grand master of the game as Walden. It was almost as if he had taken a deliberate decision not to ask difficult questions, not to harry or over-down, but to give someone learning a new language plenty of time to find the words, to stumble and correct himself, to build up his confidence in a new role.

Anne Sofer Centre forward - and backward

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manufacturing economy". (Walden described that as a "complete and very clear answer").

In the real world (and the "real world", like the "middle ground", is a current cliché for where the action is) this just will not do. There are real conflicts to be resolved between freedom and equality and between production and redistribution which cannot be wished away by this sort of sleight of hand.

But the whole conversation was not really about priorities or policies or even a sustained line of argument: it was all about finding a new vocabulary for the Labour Party, a vocabulary which gives some words a considerable prominence - words like fairness, merit, efficiency - and demotes others. There were some conjuring tricks here as well. "Solidarity" (a slightly dodgy word) was sanitized by being used only in the context of Japan. "Equality" was presented as one stage as being a combination of the concepts of "equity" and "quality" - a synthesis which has a certain aura of plausibility but no logical or etymological basis.

For Kinnock the most difficult word of all is "socialist". Here a new subliminal message has been meticulously and imaginatively worked out. At several points in the interview he was at pains to point out that what he wanted to do was not in any way peculiarly socialist. People with other political beliefs thought the same, it was only common sense. "Look, I happened to be a socialist," he seemed to be saying, (the approach was very endearing, just as if he were saying "I happen to have red hair and freckles"). "But don't hold it against me. I can talk sense as well as the next man, just as if I weren't a socialist at all..." He actually used, in this mood, words I never again expected to hear from a Labour leader: "We have to build a consensus, yes, a co-operative attitude..."

Do we clasp our hands piously and thank God for a sinner that repenteth? Do we believe even that he means it? Whether he does or not, he has certainly not thought out the implications. For if he really does regard socialism as merely one among a number of valid political philosophies, if he really does "celebrate the differences in society" as he claims, why is he so adamantly opposed to any form of coalition or proportional representation?

In truth the whole new image is the usual cynical attempt to edge the Labour vote up those extra percentage points in order to get total power. That disarming frank politician Ken Livingstone puts the matter succinctly in this week's issue of my local paper: "We could get quite a surprising win with 38 per cent of the vote. The fact that the electoral system is a farce doesn't mean you don't take the power when you are offered it." That is what democratic socialism is all about. The author is SDP member of the GLC/LEA for St Pancras North.

Lawrence Freedman on Western Europe's nuclear missile dilemmas

If there is one thing that worries West European governments more than US-Soviet confrontation, it is US-Soviet co-operation. After years of pleading with the Reagan administration for a more positive stance on arms control as an excellent means of improving East-West relations and reassuring public opinion, they are now having to think through the implications of possible agreements.

The main European concern stems from the fact that Mikhail Gorbachov has been so mischievous as to embrace a concept long associated with President Reagan - the "zero option".

When negotiations resumed in 1985 it seemed clear the any agreement would now require the Soviet Union to sanction some Nato missiles. This was confirmed in the burst of arms-control activity in the lead-up to last November's Reagan-Gorbachov summit.

The question was, how many SS-20s? The Soviet Union argued that it was necessary to take British and French missiles into account. But then on January 15 Gorbachov announced to the surprise of the West European governments that the Soviet Union now favoured the "elimination" of Intermediate Nuclear Forces in the "European zone".

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What options when Gorbachov zeros in?

was already a nuclear balance in Europe which would be disrupted by any new Nato missiles. When the first US missiles arrived late in 1983, it claimed that there was no longer any basis for negotiation and left the talks.

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compensation for the British and French forces - only that those forces be frozen at current levels and not (referring to Britain) replenished by missiles from the United States.

It appears that Soviet calculations have been transformed by the very success of the Nato programme. Nato's missile build-up is now as substantial as that of the Soviet Union. If, as Nato doctrine would have us believe, cruise and Pershing matter more to the alliance than do SS-20s to the Soviet Union, then the zero option has become rather attractive to Moscow.

So the West European governments suddenly found themselves in an embarrassing position. Washington remained wedded to the zero option. Having proposed it in the first place, it could not reject it simply because of Soviet acceptance. This acceptance could be taken as a vindication of Reagan's strategy of building weapons now to disarm later.

West European concern, conveyed to Ambassador Paul Nitze during recent consultations, irritated American officials. After years of being berated by allies for not taking arms control seriously, the Reagan administration was being accused of taking it too seriously.

When the US response to Gorbachov's proposal is announced this week some allied concerns will be taken into account. The British and French reluctance to compromise the modernization of their nuclear forces will be reflected in a rejection of the idea that they be frozen. The Japanese object to the Soviet refusal to reduce missiles facing the Far East, which were covered in the original American zero option. The US will insist on at least a 50 per cent cut. The Germans have drawn attention to the Soviet short-range missiles brought forward into East Germany and Czechoslovakia in response to Pershing.

The main question is whether the Reagan administration will accept the "elimination of intermediate nuclear forces in the European zone". The alternative will be to accept global ceilings which would allow the US to keep missiles in Europe so long as the Soviet Union left them in Asia. If the zero option is re-embodied by the Reagan administration, the West European governments will have no choice but to applaud - and then to turn again to the strategic problem that cruise and Pershing missiles were supposed to solve. The author is professor of war studies, King's College, London.

The capitalist plague comes to Russia

Moscow When delegates to the 27th Communist Party congress gather this week to approve Mikhail Gorbachov's sweeping plans to modernize the Soviet economy, the nation will be faced with the spectre of unemployment - albeit by another name - for the first time since the official declaration in October 1930 that the problem had been eliminated.

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Sensationalist treatment of the article in the western media (particularly in France) prompted an angry response from the official news agency, Tass, which talked of slander and "an anti-Soviet campaign intended to make the French doubt the undoubted achievements of real socialism".

Because western dole queues are the stock-in-trade of Kremlin propagandists, who emphasize that the Soviet constitution guarantees full employment as a fundamental right, the debate touched one of the rawest nerves in the new Soviet leadership. Eyebrows were also raised over the professor's disclosure that thousands of agricultural officials, made redundant by a recent ministerial reorganization, had been offered full pay for three months if unable to find new jobs.

"Whatever the official explanation might be, that sounds to me very much like the unemployment pay that you receive in the West", remarked one office worker who had visited London as a student. A second article by Professor Kostakov, apparently intended to allay the fears raised by the first, appeared soon after in *Sovetskaya Kultura*.

gave comfort to a sacked, middle-aged clerk with few skills.

Another leading trade unionist, Vitaly Provotorov, was questioned at a press conference about the consequences of Gorbachov's modernization plans. He replied that on the basis of existing legislation, workers made redundant could learn new skills free of charge, receiving their previous average monthly wage throughout the training period.

Although western experts do not believe that the Kremlin's new blueprint will lead to anything like western levels of unemployment (unofficial estimates put involuntary unemployment in the USSR at less than 3 per cent), they note that drastic changes in work habits and expectations will be required if the plans are to have any chance of success.

In a country where the right to work is treated as second only to the right to life, changes in attitude will not necessarily come easily. As Professor Kostakov notes: "We regard it as natural and necessary that if, for objective reasons, a job position is eliminated, the worker must immediately be given another job. Now, however, one will have to get used to the thought that to find a job will require a certain period of time."

Christopher Walker

moreover... Miles Kington All my own works

Ignore the Argyll bid for Distillers. Pay no attention to Rank's takeover of Granada. Don't take a blind bit of notice of General Motors' attempt to grab Austin Rover. Why not? Because Moreover. Enterprises are making a bold bid for the whole lot, that's why. If you follow our advice, there will soon be a massive global company called Moreover-Rank-Arkyll-Guinness-Moreover-Rover-and-tonic (lemon-and-ice-please).

For the last few weeks there have been full-page ads in the papers. They have been written in very simple English. They have pointed out that Guinness (or Distillers) are the only people you can trust. Or that Argyll (or Guinness) are the people to follow. They have presented you with short sentences. So that you can understand what is going on. And the upshot has been that you haven't the faintest idea who it is in the right. Or in the wrong. It's all very confusing. Isn't it?

Now, thank goodness, all that is over because Moreover, the biggest company in the world, has at last moved into the open and declared its intention of taking over the whole damn lot of them. No longer will you have to struggle to understand what on earth is going on, because Moreover is going to run everything, and you can go back to reading the sports pages again.

Moreover already controls most of the Amazon basin, the gun-running trade in the Middle East, the drug market at Heathrow, the concession on sticky plaster for the England Test team in the West Indies, the cloakroom at the Press Council, the reserve guest list for the Terry Wogan show and Bob Geldof's Irish election lessons. We handle the bank accounts of Baby Doc Chevalier, President Marcos and whoever won the last snooker championship. We also have the catering rights for the next Geneva talks and the croissant franchise for the Channel Tunnel. In other words, we are big and tough. That's the kind of company you need to take over Rank and Granada and General Motors and Friends of the Earth. Yeah, you heard right. Friends of the Earth, they're real tough cookies at Friends of the Earth, and we had a homingder of a battle before we took them over. After what the French did to the Greenpeace boat in New Zealand, we knew they were battle-hardened. Go on, sink a Russian cruise vessel, we said. And they did. You have to respect people like that.

Where were we? Oh, yeah. Moreover now intends to take over all the companies now boring the public silly with takeover bids. Especially American companies. Especially those American companies controlled by the Mafia. You may have read about the 600 Mafia men being held in cages in Sicily, and you may have wondered who was big enough to bring the Mafia to book. Moreover, that's who. Say no more.

We also, and this is where we think you will finally pay attention, intend to regularize the British football scene. For far too long we have been bedevilled by things like the Canon League and the Gola League, and the Milk Cup, and you keep asking yourselves questions like: What do Canon make, and what is Milk, and who drinks Gola-Cola? Well, for the next season all will be plain. We will have the Moreover League and the Moreover Cup and the Moreover Vase and the Moreover Bowl of Plastic Roses, and you will never have to ask yourself again: What is it all about?

But first of all, we need your support. Yes, you, the common shareholder, the bastion of democracy, we cannot do without you. Well, that is not quite true. Our plans are so well laid that we can get by without you quite well. But it always looks better if we make an appeal to you. And how better than by buying space in the Moreover column, just one of the tiny outposts of our vast empire? So just remember this. By this time next week, we shall be in control of all of you. At the moment we represent the caring side of capitalism. By next week we shall represent the couldn't-care-less-side of capitalism. Don't say you haven't been warned. If you want to be with us, give us your vote. Or not. We couldn't care less.



MR CHURCHILL'S BAD BILL

The most damning thing that can be said about Mr Winston Churchill's obscenity bill is that it could have been introduced at any time during the past quarter-century. It is indifferent to debate about the control of broadcasting and the future of the BBC. To it, direct broadcasting by satellite and the "new media" of mass communication are irrelevant. Worse, Mr Churchill and his supporters behave as if there had been no change of government seven years ago, and the Thatcher era had seen no effort to re-educate Britain in the dependence of economic success on personal freedom and enterprise.

Behind Mr Churchill is Mrs Mary Whitehouse. She, it has long been plain, has little time for markets, especially in matters of culture and taste. She is not much of an individualist either, if that entails leaving to individuals in their homes and families and in their commercial dealings the freedom to make their own choice about the cultural material they buy and view and allow their dependents to buy and watch. But what is disconcerting is to see Mrs Whitehouse joined in her campaign by Conservatives - including the Prime Minister himself - apparently unaware of the discrepancy between their espousal of market individualism and their enthusiasm for heavy-handed policemen, agents of the State, interposing themselves between individual consumers and broadcast material.

What a signal to give the nation. To bring the State with its apparatus of censorship into stage, screen, gallery, even the daily newspaper, because it knows better than parents

when and in what way the young are to be protected. And the implicit message goes wider. The rise of the "cultural industries" is a facet of economic change. Jobs for actors, actresses, producers and all the ancillary functionaries substitute in the medium run for older, decayed manufacturing industries. Here is an area of economic specialization where Britain does well. Is that to be choked, cramped and subjected to the penetrating gaze of Mrs Grundy? No minister with the government's broad objectives in mind can with a clear conscience walk through the lobbies in support of this bill.

Mr Churchill's bill is bad, and no amount of last minute refurbishment in committee will salvage it. It is unnecessary. Where are the legions of parents so enslaved by television and video that they, incapable of turning sets off at home, have to have the state bludgeon producers of programmes? There are parents anxious about the effects of television, but their concerns are about random fictional violence rather than sex. The remedy is better dialogue between consumers, television executives, importers of detective fiction and eventually producers - not government intervention.

No sound case has been put for extending the ambit of the Obscene Publications Act to television. Repeated citations of the showing of a single film (a serious film, its theme taken from the early church) late at night on a minority channel advance that case not one jot. The Act has settled into a comfortable middle age, rising

on the moving tide of public standards. Now, in realization of a persistent lobbying group's wish list, the Act is to be yanked into a new lease of active life, to be used against all and sundry. Under Mr Churchill's scheme everyone from gallery manager to film exhibitor will stand to be arraigned. Here is a recipe for overloading the courts, stifling cultural creation and depriving the public of entire categories of programme and picture.

The progress of Mr Churchill's bill has shown the House of Commons at its worst. Cranks on all fronts have been attracted to its blanket bands and its universal condemnations. On one side an MP has proposed extending the bill's hit list of forbidden images to the printed word. On the other an MP is trying to extend its censorship to communication by telephone. A regulatory Christmas tree is constructed with minimal thought.

The sources of television programming multiply. Methods of broadcasting diversify, with the growth now in Europe of satellite transmissions and the boom in video cassettes. New regularity frameworks will be needed, and much care will need to be expended on their shape and intrusiveness. There will be hard work for parliament to do, sooner or later. On this communications future however, Mr Churchill's bill is mpte. It offers a mere reflex. Its spirit is that of the censor. Its methods those of the authoritarian state's policeman. It is a bill that should proceed no further.

WAITING FOR HONECKER

When will the East German leader, Erich Honecker, visit West Germany? This question threatens to become one of the hardy perennials of German politics, raised each year but never finally answered.

The historic visit was scheduled for autumn 1984, but cancelled at the eleventh hour in an unprecedented flurry of public controversy between (and within) the regimes of the Soviet bloc. It was rumoured to be imminent again at the end of last year, but Honecker came there none. And now we are told that last week's visit to Bonn by Herr Horst Sierdeman, the second man in the East German state, was a prelude and a dress rehearsal for his leader's visit. We will believe it when we see it.

Formally speaking, Herr Sierdeman was in Bonn in his capacity as President of the Volkskammer of the German Democratic Republic, on the invitation of the Social Democrats in the West German Bundestag. But his visit was dramatically upgraded by the fact that he was received by Chancellor Kohl and by the President of the Bundestag, Herr Philipp Jenninger. Some Christian Democrats objected to the latter meeting on the grounds that the West German Bundestag is a real parliament and the East German Volkskammer is not. They have a point. The Volkskammer is not a parliament. It is a rubberstamp. When asked why votes in the Volkskammer are always unanimous, Herr Sierdeman averred "Of course there are differences of opinion, but that's all cleared up in committee ahead of time, before the vote in the chamber."

Yet these Christian Democrats were perhaps as much worried by the fact that this visit was organised by the Social Democrats. Over the last year the SPD has been quietly unfolding what has been called its "second Ostpolitik". This involved building up a network of party-to-party negotiations and relationships with the ruling Communist parties of Eastern Europe.

SPD delegates are meant to be discussing environmental problems with the Czechoslovak Communist party, economic issues with the Hungarian comrades, "confidence-building" with the Polish United Workers' Party (whose confidence in whom?), and, of all things, defence spending cuts with the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. With East Germany's ruling communist party, the SED, they have already produced a joint "draft treaty" for a chemical-weapon-free zone in Central Europe (defined as the two Germanies and Czechoslovakia), and are working on a joint commitment to a nuclear-free zone.

There are major objections of substance to the SPD's "second Ostpolitik". It tends to obscure the fundamental ideological differences between communism and social democracy, which the SPD has traditionally been the first to point up. More serious still, it seems to accept the linkage between intra-German relations (Deutschlandpolitik) and security policy which Soviet leaders have always tried to impose, and which the Kohl government, to its credit, has resolutely ignored.

But there is also a domestic political side to this debate.

With these various moves the SPD has appeared to take the initiative in Ostpolitik, a remarkable achievement for a party out of office, and an electoral plus. If, however, Chancellor Kohl can bring off a Honecker visit before next year's general election, the balance will be more than righted.

Herr Honecker himself, in a recent interview with the West German newspaper Die Zeit, made cautiously positive reference to the Kohl government's stance on intra-German relations, and said he would pay his long-awaited call at a time convenient to both sides. Herr Sierdeman in Bonn brought further hints of progress, himself raising the (to West Germany) all-important subject of improving human contacts between the Germans in the two states. He also set a couple of useful little precedents in those points of protocol which so egregiously complicate German-German diplomacy.

At the same time, however, another senior East German Politburo member was guardedly presenting East-West German relations, in the pages of Pravda, as a contribution to the Soviet-led struggle for peace. And there's the rub. For Moscow still holds the key. This time round, Herr Honecker will surely not commit himself until he is absolutely confident that he has a clear green light from the Soviet leader. That will almost certainly mean waiting until after the Soviet party congress, and probably until after his own party congress, which is scheduled for April. So Bonn may settle back to at least a few more enjoyable weeks of "will he, won't he?"

Cricket safety

From Mr H. J. Stockwell
Sir, May I point out to the Rev James Funnell (February 21) that batsmen use "the other kind of protector" to protect themselves against the ball which is bowled legitimately with the intention of hitting the stumps, whereas the type of ball which is bowled with the intention of softening up the batsman - not that any bowler could soften up Mike Gatting - or making the batsman give a catch while defending his person and not the wicket is illegitimate, is not cricket, and should be so called by any umpire who can read the Laws.

The game so many of us used to love as an art and a model for a way of life has been fackered to suit our present-day violent society.

Yours faithfully,
H. J. STOCKWELL,
Cymru,
Epping Road,
Roxton,
Essex,
February 21.

From Mr J. E. Harper
Sir, After the horrendous accident to Mike Gatting (report, February 20) I tried out something like the full protective equipment your cricket photograph displayed in today's Times (February 21). I could still see the ball, even when bowled fast. The trouble was, I found it hard to move and wellnigh impossible to run.

Will the "quick single" die, as has the "quick two"?

Yours sincerely,
J. E. HARPER,
Kooyong,
Queen's Road,
Colchester,
Essex,
February 21.

game in a Test match against the West Indies.

Shut up, Wogan!
Yours sincerely,
ALASDAIR CAMPBELL,
Cockles House,
Fletching,
Uckfield, East Sussex.

Seen along the line
From Mr Jonathan Bates
Sir, I am pleased to be able to tell Dr Fursdon (February 12) that scarecrows have not disappeared; they have merely developed, in much the same way that art is supposed to have developed.

Many of today's scarecrows consist of a pole surmounted by a bin liner or similar plastic sheet - a punk scarecrow, perhaps - whilst others are vaguely mechanical in appearance. I have even spotted cubist scarecrows during recent walks in the countryside. However, like Dr Fursdon I much prefer the traditional variety.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN BATES,
8 Buckstone Rise,
Edinburgh.

Charity concession only limited

From the Director of the Charities Aid Foundation
Sir, The publicity you have given (report, February 19) to the possibility of new tax incentives in the Budget to encourage more giving is in danger of creating false hopes on the one hand and unnecessary anxiety on the other. May I therefore make a number of points:

1. It is likely that the new American-style incentives will be given to public companies only in this Budget. An incentive for individuals may be announced as the subject of a working party or to be under consideration for a certain date, for example, 1988.

2. The covenant system will not be abolished; new incentives will be additional to, not instead of, covenants. People should realise that an incentive given now can be removed later, whereas the right to abrogate income on which tax has been paid to a charity is now inalienable. Besides, the churches, many membership charities and many project appeals survive absolutely because of covenants.

3. The company concession will not lead to a "bonanza". Companies give £70 million per year; the top 200 companies give half of this. The concession tax provisions already, whilst the local company can already give to local charities as a business expense. Also close and private companies will not be included until individuals are. Therefore the immediate effect of this likely company concession should be several millions rather than tens of millions of new money per year.

None of these points is intended to play down the excitement of the immediate or medium-term prospects. We would forecast a dramatic increase in private support for charity given effective incentives for individuals when it does happen. Voluntary cash contributions, running presently

at £500 million per year, should double within five years of the introduction of an encouraging tax regime. We seek only to allay fears until, or to avoid too much disappointment on, March 18.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BROPHY, Director,
Charities Aid Foundation,
14 Bloomsbury Square, W.C1,
February 20.

From Mr N. V. Halliday
Sir, It is ironic that in your interesting leader today (February 20) on the tax status of charities you should choose the word "theological" to describe the debate as to whether tax revenue diverted to charities is "public money". Your implication is that the question is arcane, academic and of no practical relevance.

This is a usage which gained currency (rather inappropriately, I thought) during the recent debates about the Labour Party's constitution, debates which journalists in particular intended to describe as "theological".

The usage reflects, however, only a secularist misapprehension. Theology, the knowledge of God, is nothing if not directly practical - and this is seen nowhere more clearly than in the British charities of which you write. For it was precisely their understanding of what God is like, and therefore what man is worth, which motivated many of the pioneers of British charitable institutions in the last century. With a different theology they might never have started.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL VAUX HALLIDAY,
108 Gloucester Court,
Kew Road,
New Gardens,
Surrey,
February 20.

Some errors in 'thinking big'

From Mr Philip R. Lowe
Sir, In his letter on merger issues (February 19) Sir Michael Edwards misses the real point behind the reservations held by so many who are opposed to the Leyland/Bedford merger, amongst others.

Rightly or wrongly, the public at large tend to see three results from most mergers: firstly, a large financial windfall for the shareholders of the "target" company (with accompanying opportunities for speculators to make a "killing"); secondly, further limitation of choice and availability of product for the customer (be he consumer or otherwise); and thirdly, yet another redundancy programme (usually in the guise of "rationalisation") to further swell the dole queue.

Such fears may or may not be unfounded. However, the examples of Leyland itself (whose manifest difficulties only occurred after a series of disastrous mergers in the 1960s) and Chrysler UK, formerly Rootes Group (whose decline did not seriously set in until the takeover by Chrysler US, again in the 1960s) give such fears much credence. Either way such feelings are most understandable and worthy of greater respect than to be dismissed as "doctrinaire and parochial" or "little Englander".

To trade in a heavyweight world Britain must, as Sir Michael says, "think big". However, to imply that the act of allowing our sole remaining volume vehicle manufacturer fall under the control of a foreign-owned competitor accords with the description of "thinking big" seems, with respect, to be illogical.

Sir Michael asks how many of our businesses will be effective in 10 years' time if views do not change. If the proposed series of mergers goes ahead, to be followed presumably by yet more, then I imagine the customers, employees, unions and management of Leyland, plus anyone else with an interest in seeing that Britain maintains some vestige of manufacturing industry under its control, will be asking themselves the same question.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP R. LOWE,
14 Woodland Close,
Albrighton,
Wolverhampton,
West Midlands,
February 19.

ON THIS DAY

FEBRUARY 24 1874

The capture by the Ashantee tribe in West Africa of members of the Basle Mission took place in June 1869. War between that tribe and the Fanti tribe delayed the prisoners' release, which was not effected until January 1874, when Sir Garnet Wolseley's troops marched into Coomassie. Our Special Correspondent was Winwood Reade (1835-75).

IN CAPTIVITY AT COOMASSIE

Praha, Jan 18

In this letter I shall offer to your readers a connected narrative of Mr Kuhne's capture and captivity as related to me by himself, preceding his story with a few remarks on the Mission to which he belongs, and the country in which it carries on its work. That country forms part of the Gold Coast.

The stations of the Basle Mission are partly in the forest region, partly in the open land. . . . It was my fortune a few years ago to pass much time among these missionaries, and I have had many a conversation with them in relation to the captives at Coomassie. The Basle Missionary Society did great things in the early days at Sierra Leone, when shipments of naked savages taken on board slave ships were disembarked every month in that settlement. But as regards missionary labours among independent savage tribes in Western Africa it is certain that the Basle Mission should receive the palm. The principles upon which it is conducted make it resemble those of our industrial communities of monks which brewed clearings in the great German forests and regarded labour as a kind of prayer. With respect to missionaries trading with the natives (for the benefit of the Society), a difference of opinion may prevail; but no rational man will deny that it is good for missionaries to teach their converts useful handicrafts and the discipline of industry.

They have posted their stations a considerable distance into the interior, and one of the most inland was at the town of Anum, in the Kreepee country, on the other side of the Volta. . . . Presently the Ashantees were reported to be near Anum. Every one left the town; the missionaries sent their clerks and catechists and servants away, and remained quite alone in the house. They were three in number - Mr Kuhne, Mr Ramseyer, and Mrs Ramseyer who had an infant ten months old. . . . It was on the 12th of June 1869, Mrs Ramseyer was in the gallery spreading out clothes to dry when she saw the barrels of muskets above the high grass. About 20 armed men appeared and pointed their guns at the house. She wished them good morning and went inside. The two missionaries went out and asked the men if they were Ashantees, and on receiving their reply said they were friends to the Ashantees as well as to all other people, and had nothing to do with the war. They then shook hands, and the leader of the men said they must all go down to Anum and salute the General. . . . The next day they were made to march off again. Mrs Ramseyer lost one of her shoes in a swamp, but was not allowed to wait for a moment. Mr Kuhne lagged, and was threatened with the whip. . . . It was dark before they reached the Ashantee camp. They were taken before they had time to suppose to be a tent, but it was a huge umbrella. Beneath it sat a man covered with a white cloth. They were told that this was Adoo Buffoo. The soldiers of the escort knelt down and presented the captives. Some men rushed up to Mrs Ramseyer and tore off the skirt of her gown. A man with a long knife came up and separated the captives. Mr Kuhne was taken to a hut in which sat a chief, bleeding from five wounds, which were being washed with hot water. He ordered Kuhne to sit down, and made signs that he would cut off his arms. The chief then inquired if he had been fighting, Kuhne replied that he was a priest. The chief made a sign, and he was put into irons. He felt sure that he would be killed. . . . However, though kept in irons and robbed, they were not otherwise ill-treated, and Adoo Buffoo informed them with much politeness. . . . They must go to a quiet town. . . . and sent them off. They walked for some distance until they came to a hill, whence they could see the Volta. Then they knew that the quiet town to which they were going was Coomassie. . . . Mrs Ramseyer had some desiccated milk in a bottle, and with this she kept the child alive for a time. When the milk was finished she made it food with eggs and boiled corn, and when they entered a village the missionaries used to go begging from house to house for an egg. They were not always successful, but the natives were sometimes very kind and brought them food of their own accord. The child became thinner and paler every day, and died before the end of July. It had just been buried, when they received a present from the King and a message telling them not to be afraid. . . .

Benefits for the cold and old

From Mr T. G. C. Knight
Sir, Your leader writer on "Winter fuel" (February 19) may have fallen into the trap of thinking there are simple answers for deciding how and when payments should be made. He says "severe weather payments hinge on out-of-the-ordinary conditions." We know that "normal" is only a mean between extremes, but at what point does anything become out-of-the-ordinary? It is not so easy for those who have to decide.

In referring to loan arrangements your writer also mentions the words "sufficient" (in referring to basic rates) and "reasonable" (in referring to provision for winter fuel). These are not easy words to define. In practice what may prove adequate for A may be inadequate for B, just as what may be reasonable for C may not be so for A. Individual circumstances are so often a major factor.

In the past 20 years the Supplementary Benefits Commission and its successors have sought legislation which might establish absolute precision in decision-making. The flaw has been that new laws paved the way for payments to many who may not have been in real need while debarring many others who might

not have been excluded had discretionary powers been more readily available and whose real needs were very obvious. The dehumanisation of the system has been one of its most distressing features.

It is true that, without clearly defined guidelines, there was, and is, always the risk of certain officials, or areas, being more lenient or more severe than others. But, if "need" (also, admittedly, difficult to define) is to be the criterion, as it ought always to be, there is much to be said for the exercise of discretion, rather than voluminous regulations which are unintelligible to the public at large and to many officials themselves, even if it does mean apparent discrepancies at times.

The 1966 Supplementary Benefits Act was not as bad, in retrospect, as its critics suggested. And there was, and still is, much to be said for the A Code (the DHSS internal guide) and its confidentiality.

Yours faithfully,
T. G. C. KNIGHT,
Wildwood,
Felden Lane,
Crowthorne,
Surrey,
February 19.

The missing matron

From the General Secretary of the Royal College of Nursing
Sir, Mr R. M. Nicholls, the General Manager of Southmead District Health Authority (February 17), completely misses the point about the Royal College of Nursing campaign. The issue is not about how many nurses have been appointed as general managers. Even if 50 per cent of general managers were former nurses they, as individuals, would still require an adequate nursing structure because 50 per cent of their staff would be nurses and probably over 40 per cent of their budget would be spent on nursing.

Too many general managers think they can run nursing in their district with advice from nurses rather than properly led and managed nursing teams. To talk about ward sisters becoming general managers indicates the shift away from a firm professional care. It will bring more administration into the wards, not more influence in management.

The Royal College of Nursing has been careful to say that it foresees serious problems in about 70 health authorities in England where the nursing structure has been emasculated. We believe this is a large enough minority to merit central Government action.

Mr Nicholls reflects upon the impact of the campaign on nursing morale and public confidence. Far from undermining morale, the advertisements have given nurses confidence to speak out locally about what they see happening around them. Public confidence will indeed be shaken if the humanity and compassion in the NHS is submerged in a welter of so-called efficiency savings and greater productivity and throughput.

Finally, the Griffiths reorganisation is not, in most cases, about devolving more power to the ward sister and charge nurse. It is they who have been most vocal about the dismantling of the professional support structure they require. Hollow promises will impress no one, least of all ward sisters.

Yours faithfully,
TREVOR CLAY,
General Secretary,
Royal College of Nursing of the United Kingdom,
20 Cavendish Square, W1,
February 18.

From the President of The Institute of Health Services Management
Sir, The Royal College of Nursing have a good point in their simple message that the NHS needs nursing management and advice. Most general managers accept and endorse that message. The college have, however, made a number of claims which will not stand up to examination.

It may suit the college's purpose to conjure up armies of pinpricked executives, but it is simply not true. Of the 605 general managers so far appointed, only 46 are from the private sector and 46 are nurses!

The RCN advertisements give the impression that long-standing NHS problems have been caused by general management. Staffing levels at night have been a problem throughout the time when nursing was managed by nurses and remain so today.

The RCN urges us to "put the patient, not the balance sheet first". These are false alternatives. Putting the patient first is something we all need to learn to do. It is quite wrong to suggest that sound financial management is in opposition to "patients first". Vast resources are spent on nursing services and it is in the patient's as well as the taxpayer's interest that managers should view nursing in terms of cost as well as care.

Roy Griffiths produced a powerful critique of NHS management. The RCN campaign is no answer to that critique or to the problems of managing a complex modern health service.

Yours sincerely,
KEN JARROLD, President,
The Institute of Health Services Management,
75 Portland Place, W1.

Birth of a motor

From Bishop W. Warren Hunt
Sir, Mr Pearson Phillips (Spectrum, February 13) gives a version of how the Land Rover was conceived and born. The account I have come from Maurice Wilks himself as we were on holiday in Anglesey.

He had taken his young sons down to the beach at Red Wharf Bay and as he sat there dreamed of something that would take him and the boys across the vast stretch of sand and sea to wherever they wanted to go. Then it would take them up the steep, rough stony track, through the trees back to the hotel.

Dreams turned to ideas which he jotted down on that day's page of his diary. As the first Land Rover stood in the factory yard he looked back in his diary - it was nine months to the day since he had first made his notes.

To be a passenger in a Land Rover when he drove it over seemingly impossible land and through the sea was an experience never to be forgotten.

Yours faithfully,
W. WARREN HUNT,
15 Lynch Down,
Funtington,
Nr Chichester,
West Sussex,
February 15.

Sunday trading

From the Chairman of the Consumers' Association
Sir, Mr David Crouch, MP's innocent letter (February 20) is disarming. Like the Canterbury Christian Council, Consumers' Association could hold a public meeting in Caterbury. An audience of 200, including church-goers, would vote in favour of sweeping away the laws about shopping hours. Our problem is that unlike, for example, the Keep Sunday Special campaign, we could not use hundreds of thousands of pounds to organise petitions, arrange a "write-in" and pack meetings with supporters. Neither would I want to.

The voices that are shouting a loud and long are not the voices of the electorate. Poll after poll of statistically representative samples of the public shows the majority of people to be in favour of deregulation. In countries where there is legal Sunday trading - Scotland and Sweden - there is no question that Sunday is still special. It could not be "like any other day of the week" when most shops and places of work will still be shut.

Sweeping away the Shops Act, protecting the hours of shopworkers, attending church and having Sunday as a different day are not irreconcilable. To claim that the campaign against deregulation is a spontaneous expression of widely held views is a distortion of the facts.

Yours faithfully,
RACHEL WATERHOUSE,
Chairman,
Consumers' Association,
14 Buckingham Street, W.C2,
February 20.

Worlds apart

From Dr W. J. Trowell
Sir, When I had my eyes tested by my optician he used an apparatus based on a principle discovered by Isaac Newton and manufactured by the East Yorkshire Optical Company of Japan.

Yours etc
JOHN TROWELL,
Lister House,
Staple Tye,
Great Parndon,
Harlow,
Essex.

THE ARTS

Andrew Rissik reviews the weekend's television and, a year on from EastEnders, Mark Lawson assesses the impact of Michael Grade Shrewd aim at the toughest targets

Richard Eyre's superb new film The Insurance Man (BBC, yesterday) gives us a script by Alan Bennett in which Franz Kafka is a leading secondary character. Already, the conjunction of the two has brought the amateur literary critics out in force. We have been told that The Trial, that Bennett's Czech peasants talk like Yorkshire labourers, that the film is turgid and self-important where Kafka's fantasy was deft and frightening.

In fact, the link between the two writers is more a matter of atmosphere and mood than precise literary influence. The Trial is the conspiracy-theorist's recurring nightmare, and Bennett is right, in a Radio Times article, to compare it to Alice in Wonderland. Both are dark, funny books where the central characters are the only sane people in a world which is impenetrably and inconceivably mad. The Insurance Man has no such licence, and its comedy is philosophical rather than fantastic.

In it, a dye worker contracts a mysterious skin disease, tries to claim compensation and is frustrated at every turn, finally receiving help and sympathy from a kindly-disposed young claims assessor. The claims assessor is Kafka, and his well-intentioned compassion - an attempt to help in an asbestos factory - backfires. The skin disease, too, has no verifiable connection with work, and melts away after Bennett's central character is rejected by his fiancée. Everyone at the Manpower office - claimants, clerks and doctors - has some emotional stake in the bureaucracy of unhappiness, in the way that most of us invest some specific factual focus for a wider and more general misery.

The suitors at the Court of Chancery did the same in Bleak House, and The Insurance Man owes more to Kafka's surreal whimsy. In one stunning scene an examining doctor assesses his temper with the state's institutionalised compassion. They all claim to have been happy until their accident, he says, his voice cold with fury. They want paradise, not compensation. It is one of the finest things that Bennett has written and, acted extraordinarily well by Geoffrey Palmer, it gives us the bleak centre of this mordant moral fable. Richard Eyre directs with a quiet, mesmeric intelligence, unafraid to let his camera look the text face on, recognising film's capacity for psychological scrutiny and concentration. The script has its moments of overstatement and clumsiness - the framing scenes, set, for the purposes of reminiscence, in 1945, are a mere device - but this is an acute and moving piece of work.

The weekend saw two notable repeats. Gerry Anderson's breathtaking, high-tech puppet adventure series Captain Scarlet returns in the LWT region, proving once again that Anderson was a dream-maker of unceasing genius. The glory of Tony Hancock, in Hancock's Half-Hour (BBC1), is that blend of obscenity and belligerence, of teasing and bullying, which seems to us the national character. We see the same spirit sprit dancing inside Alf Garnett and Basil Fawlty. - A.R.

On BBC1, the channel controlled by Mr Michael Grade, there has recently been a series called The Marriage. A young couple were followed by the cameras from first to last anniversary while everyone assessed the strength and likely length of their union. Mr Grade is in a position to sympathize: the marriage between himself, an aggressive scheduler with theories gleaned from years with ITV, and the august and crusty BBC has been subjected to the same curious scrutiny.

This week sees the first anniversary of the revamp of the schedule centred around EastEnders and Wogan - which have made Grade the highest-profile programmer in British television. It is time to take up the invitation he made at the launch of those programmes last February: "Don't expect miracles. Give these changes a year and then see what difference they have made."

If figures are significant, they are. EastEnders, the first new soap opera to challenge the Coronation Street monopoly, occupied places one to 10 in the British Audience Research Board list of last month's most-watched programmes. The BBC produced 17 of the Christmas top-20 shows and 57 of the top 100 for the first week of January, and have clawed towards, and sometimes beyond, a 50-50 split of the total audience available to BBC and ITV. For the BBC, these are figures which previously only happened to other people.

If your criterion is quality, the equation is more problematic. There have been accusations that Grade has brought to the BBC cheque-book television, a cash-for-trash mentality, that the BBC will overflow with soap and shows in which Paul Daniels cuts Samantha Fox in half and that Grade has a down on drama, arts and current affairs. Twelve months ago "low-grade" was the fashionable tag for BBC1 but, of late, the Jeremiahs have been silent.

Consider his two main innovations. Doubt has been cast on the

figures for EastEnders (it has the advantage, unlike its ITV rivals, of a weekend repeat) but it is, for me, considerably better written and more obviously tailored to the Eighties than Coronation Street. It should be remembered that Grade, in seeking to create a popular twice-weekly soap opera, chose the hardest target in the market. Granada Television's own attempts to find a stablemate for Coronation Street - with the bi-weekly serials The Practice and Albion Market - hit a quagmire of indifference; the former will return as one-hour dramas on the General Hospital model and the latter was switched from peak-time to test-time after falling ratings.

The achievement of Wogan is more open to debate. Almost everything the show has proved is inadvertent and to its own disadvantage: how boring talk becomes, how Wogan knocks conversations into monologues for himself and how slender is the set of genuinely interesting celebrities. Grade is staunch in his support of the show, hunting at Wogan five nights a week, but it bears signs of tiredness already and the best that can be said is that it has survived a year, probably longer than many felt likely, and that an average audience of nine million is respectable.

Many have attempted to present Grade as a cultural thug. That is nonsense and his record at London Weekend Television disproves it: since at the zany game-shows and the zany comedy series if you like, but remember The South Bank Show and Weekend World and, in drama, an Alan Bennett sextet and a Dennis Potter trilogy. The cleverness of Grade's scheduling at LWT was its balance between pap to satisfy advertisers and higher-quality products.

But Wogan and EastEnders alone would represent a recovery as temporary and cosmetic as a toupee. The real achievement of Grade's first year is that he, as a specialist scheduler, has broadened the audience for shows



Michael Grade: astonishing - if not miraculous - achievement

which he was expected to jettison. Panorama, trimmed by 10 minutes and moved to after the main evening news, was seen as a victim of Grade's philistinism; in fact, its audience doubled. Grade claimed to have given it "more money and more programmes" and its recent run has been up to or above the quality of before.

He points out, for those who sounded alarms about drama, that BBC1 will this year transmit serials by Britain's two best television playwrights: Dennis Potter's The Singing Detective and Alan Bleasdale's The Monocled Mutineer.

But there are thorns in the garden as well. Grade has faults which the BBC would do well to check. He is an unashamed salesman and American soap opera sells well, but you can have

too much, to transmit, as he will from March 5, Dallas on Wednesdays with Dynasty and Dynasty II on alternate Fridays, is to make Britain a soap-dish for the American network.

The BBC still has many problems. As ratings have soared, morale has fallen: the Real Lives affair and the suspension of two journalists from the current-affairs series Rough Justice have apparently made the upper echelons tremulous about upsetting anyone. The very success of Grade's schedules has intensified uncertainty about the BBC's role. Is programming now motivated by ratings-chasing? If Mr Grade will fight ITV in the schedules, then why not in the market-place for advertising? Though back on course, the BBC needs careful steering. - M.L.

Concert

Music on the boil

BBCSO/Eötvös BBC Maida Vale

Musical enterprise from the BBC is not exactly news, but this season's crop of Invitation Concerts is proving something special. On Saturday night the invitation was to the Maida Vale studios, where the BBCSO were conducted by Peter Eötvös in three works, beginning with Michael Finnis's Sea and Sky for large forces.

No more than La Mer is it a picture drawn from nature; indeed its ferocity, its clamour of notes over a wide register, often boiling at the top with trumpets, and its finally independent clarinet solo all seem purely musical phenomena, not requiring explanation.

Christoph Deitz's Piano Concerto, on the other hand,

insists on being interpreted. After a first movement notable for grasping gestures from the composer/soloist, low strings and percussion, the second is a homage to Beethoven which could easily be imagined as an accompaniment to one of his films, involving, perhaps, a giant guitar with a hundred hands scrambling over it, a cellist playing from a minaret, a concert in an aircraft hangar and any number of melting but still ticking watches. Deitz is clearly an original.

Hugues Dufourt's talent is less surprising, emerging almost inevitably from the mix of Xenakis and Messiaen, but it was worth hearing his flute concerto Antilles when played with such a narrow, elegant pencil line as it was here by Istvan Matuz.

Paul Griffiths

Opera

Madam Butterfly Coliseum

Graham Vick's much-admired production has a new soprano for this revival: the Polish soprano Magdalena Falenczyk, making her English National Opera debut. She is above all a sophisticated actress, not entirely credible as a naive 15-year-old perhaps but revealing great psychological insight in Act II where the conflicting pulls of self-delusion, love, despair and dignity are movingly conveyed.

She is best, vocally, in a well-focused and vibrant middle range. The falling phrases for "One Fine Day" expose a slightly underpowered low register, and her highest notes are variable.

As Pinkerton, Roland Sidwell also had mixed fortunes among the leger-tines (although both singers were in ardently lyrical voice for the big Act I duet). Sidwell, however, acts well and looks right

—burly, crass and desperately short of moral fibre - and his direct, ingenious vocal manner is potentially ideal for the part.

The other roles are also strongly sung. Anne-Marie Owen's gloomy, suspicious Falenczyk, making her English National Opera debut. She is above all a sophisticated actress, not entirely credible as a naive 15-year-old perhaps but revealing great psychological insight in Act II where the conflicting pulls of self-delusion, love, despair and dignity are movingly conveyed.

His approach perfectly complements Vick's handsome staging, which - for all its clever touches - makes its final appeal straight to the heart, just as it should.

Richard Morrison

Simon Banner reports from Paris on the National Theatre's contribution to the Théâtre de l'Europe season The trick of being calmly nervous

Enter Tom Stoppard stage right, stepping into the murky, green light, and pacing the stage carefully as if to measure it. Staggering on and caught in a wild embrace with an ugly-looking bearskin, a stage-hand appears to be searching for somewhere to off-load his burden. The contraption which hovers above - a group of clouds, a trident and a shield decorated with the Union Jack - begins to rise and descend crazily. Somewhere "Rule Britannia" is struck up. Meanwhile, picking this way between an industrial vacuum cleaner, a dead body and a wheelchair, Stoppard exits stage left pursued by stage-hand and bear.

Not altogether surprisingly, Edward Petherbridge furrows his brow. "At this point it always looks as if it will never come together, doesn't it?" But he turns to Ian McKellen (who, along with Petherbridge himself, is co-director of one of the five distinct groups which now make up the National Theatre) and adds gloomily that "Perhaps it won't come together this time after all".

What should have been coming together was the Petherbridge-McKellen production of The Real Inspector Hound and The Critic, due to open 24 hours later at the Odéon in Paris. The actors had only just flown in from London and were now, late in the evening, due to see the Odéon for the first time.

"No showers!" What about the mirrors? But each observation had the corollary that "at least it's a better theatre than the Olivier". And more attractive too, richly decorated in red and gold, hung with chandeliers. It is left to Eleanor Bron unwittingly to make the most dramatic entrance of all. Dressed in black, topped by a skyscraper of a



Total panic - or maybe not: Ian McKellen as the Hound

conscious of what is expected of it, Ian McKellen believes the company to be "calmly nervous". "We have to recognize what a tremendous honour it is for us to be invited here at all, because, while Britain has been standing still culturally over the last few years, the French have been busy making Paris the cultural capital of Europe. And here we are, invited to be at the very heart of things."

With just a few hours to go before curtain-up, there are more immediate worries than the decline of British theatre. In a converted office, the company's wig mistress and her team are fretfully combing and teasing life back into the 37 wigs they have brought over with them, at the same time as pondering on the possibility of successful coordination of the evening's many rapid costume and wig changes. "Trying to work it out is like doing a crossword and a jigsaw at the same time."

"They're not going to be able to hear from up here," shouts Sheila Hancock, pretending to be an audience in one of the boxes. "Nor see," she adds cheerily. "There's so little time left for a run-through," says Stoppard, "we're just going to have to put the lights on and do the show." "I'm afraid 'Rule Britannia' has to be faster!" says Hancock.

"If you want my opinion," as one of the critics in Hound puts it as the curtain is about to rise, "it's total panic back there." Or maybe not. Because, as the company hits its stride, particularly with the neatly executed pantomime of The Critic, and apart from the occasional whispered enquiry heard among the audience, the significance of a language-barrier in the theatre is generally exaggerated. This is borne out by the enthusiastic first night response. "This is what the Théâtre de l'Europe is all about - there's good and bad theatre, but really fine theatre works for any audience." They understood it, didn't they?" says Tristram Wynter, amazedly. Nisraam speaks to nation and Edward Petherbridge claims to have a whole new perspective on the Channel Tunnel. All this from what a few hours ago looked like the jaws of defeat.

Dance Radiant Fonteyn

The Sleeping Beauty Miami Beach, Florida

Dame Margot Fonteyn's flying visit to Miami Beach to appear with the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet in The Sleeping Beauty was no ordinary dance occasion. Her association with this particular ballet goes back some 47 years - when the Tchaikovsky/Petipa then almost youthful music was itself one year shy of its own half-century. And her Miami appearances came almost 40 years to the day - February 20, 1946 - after she helped reopen the Royal Opera House at that epoch-starting Royal Gala, with the historic Sleeping Beauty that embodied Oliver Messel's stylized vision of fairyland.

Peter Wright's recent staging of The Sleeping Beauty replaces Messel's fantasy with the more sombre finery of Philip Prowse. Even more significantly, Dame Margot, the world's Aurora, who had danced the role more often than any other ballerina in history ever had or almost certainly ever will, was now, for the first time, the Queen.

Dame Margot's appearance was not unseasonably taken as an event. Her Majesty's Ambassador came from Washing-

ton to attend her debut, and the Miami Herald noted the next day that Fonteyn was "looking radiant... acting with her legendary grace." Her appearance did not seem surprising. After all she still remains listed officially as the Royal Ballet's one and only prima ballerina assoluta and her nature was always modest rather than retiring. Also she is not a complete stranger to the quieter realm of mime role - a few years ago in New York she played Lady Capulet for the Ballet of La Scala, Milan. But even that lacked the poignancy and charm of this new assumption.

How was she? She was radiant. What other word could there be? - after all, it once characterized the Aurora that woke up the entire world of dance. So it can well serve another turn.

She was an Aurora's mother who got more applause on entrance than some Auroras get on exit. She behaved impeccably. Her acting proved studiously unexaggerated, completely attuned to the suave authority of her King - himself a long-time dancing partner, Desmond Kelly.

She accepted her roses with the moist eyes of pleasure. She still walked in beauty, the way a star danced at her birth.

Clive Barnes

Royal Ballet Covent Garden

I can never understand why a company as steeped in tradition as the Royal Ballet lacks sense of occasion. Last week it marked the fortieth anniversary of its move to Covent Garden, reopening the Opera House after the war, with a nondescript triple bill that can hardly be claimed to make a coherent or satisfying whole since neither musically, thematically nor stylistically do its parts have anything to do with one another.

I suppose it makes sense to get as much mileage as possible out of Frankenstein before audiences notice that Wayne Eagling's flamboyant use of stage tricks thinly covers a lack of any attribute likely to give it staying power. His choreography limply recycles familiar steps. Neither Eagling nor the more glamorous Ashley Page can adequately substitute for the dramatic flair which Stephen Jefferys (sadly now injured) previously gave the title part. Last season's cheers are notably missing.

By my applause meter (alias ears), Gloria is the evening's most popular part. It is easy to see why, since it combines three indelible themes: war, sex and religion. Poulenc's music provides the pious while Andy Chandler's designs set the action in a sharply stylized but unmistakable evocation of

First World War trenches where men stand or rest anxious and waiting for the next attack. Kenneth MacMillan gives the pale ghosts and flayed corpses that make up the cast some of his most erotic choreography as they recall lost pleasures.

The partnering work is smoother and less strained than MacMillan sometimes imposes, whether in the adagio for two or three dancers or the allegro acrobatics for three men and a woman. Jennifer Penney, Julian Hosking and Wendy Ellis repeat their success in the roles made for them, and Fiona Chadwick made a good debut in Penney's part. Eagling, in the other main role, acts intensely but his solos have lost some of their energy.

Separating these two disparate works, David Bintley's Consort Lessons offers some of his most assured adagio choreography (handsomely done by Lesley Collier and Fiona Chadwick on successive nights) and allegro dances that contain striking and felicitous passages. Bintley asks a fair turn of speed from his dancers, but there is nothing exorbitant in what he expects, and there seems no excuse for the sloppy footwork, lack of forcefulness and lack of finish-ness which some of them showed.

John Percival

Feargal Sharkey Hammersmith Odeon

Who would have predicted when young Feargal Sharkey was still singing with the evergreen Underones that he would one day turn out to be such a suave musical sophisticate? For when his former group threw in the towel, following a run of modest chart entries between 1978 and 1981, it was their spontaneous, gauche approach, untrammelled by any hint of calculating music-business acumen, for which they were most fondly remembered.

But times change. With the confidence of a No 1 hit behind him, and the aura of a man who has tasted the fruits of "crossover" appeal, Sharkey strode purposefully to the

Rock

microphone, while his superbly drilled 10-piece soul revue band cracked down hard on the Motown beat of his most recent hit, "You Little Thief".

His voice, however, remains a constant factor in a career which now looks as well groomed as his gorgeous flowing locks. With his high, warm timbre he still struck a siren note of brooding Angst over the supper-club funk of "Bitter Man" and the designer soul of "Don't Leave it to Nature", while occasionally, as when he stalked the front row during "Ashes and Diamonds", looking like a figure from Macbeth, the awkward energy of his old Bash Street Kid persona resurfaced itself.

His band were strikingly good; essentially a cohesive backing unit, they stuck to crisp, tidy arrangements. Davey Payne's brief saxophone solos and Graham

Pointer's rare guitar breaks remaining firmly bedded in a mix of compact-disc accuracy. With no one musician to the fore, attention was constantly drawn to the superlative drive and precision of Jeff Dumm's drumming.

The nagging singalong melody of "A Good Heart" was delivered with an impressive clout, and, whatever reservations may be felt about Sharkey's induction into the high-gloss echelons of production pop, there was no doubting the conviction of this performance. Capable performances of Percy Sledge's "When a Man Loves a Woman" and Bob and Earl's "Harlem Shuffle", two of the most taxing soul classics for both singer and band, provided an admirable and uplifting finale.

David Sinclair

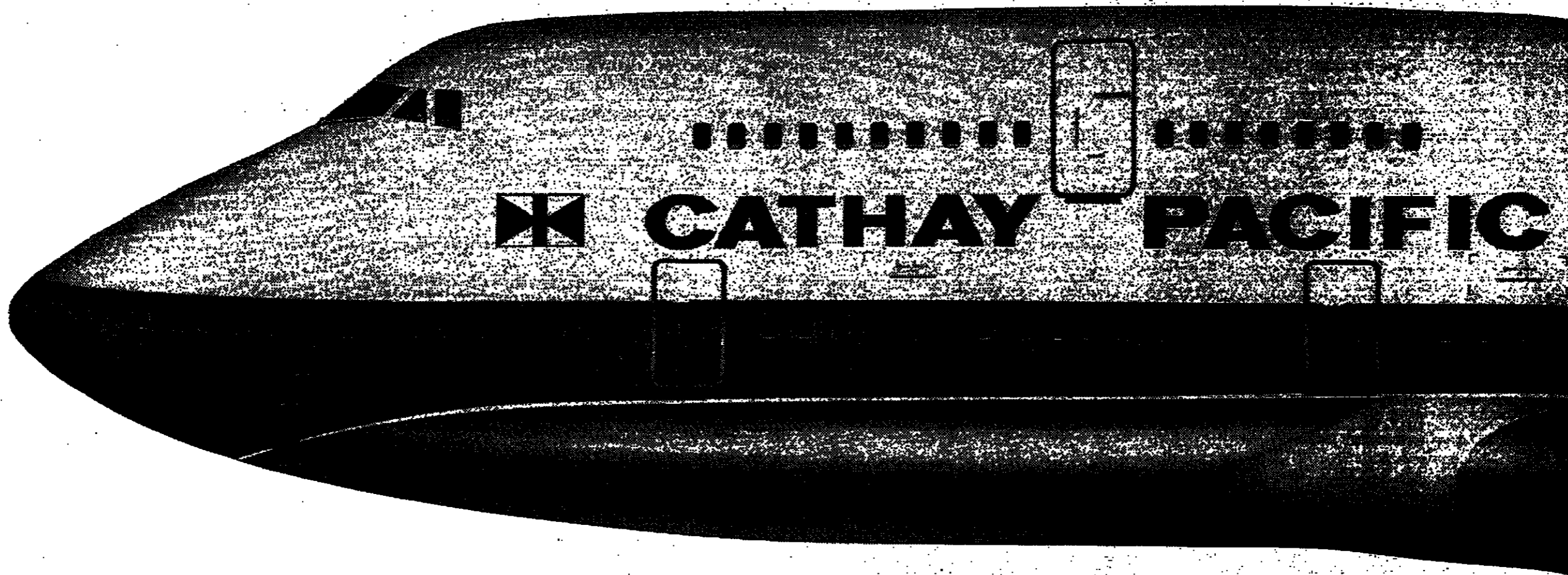


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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

US NOTEBOOK

Dangers in Volcker policy

From Maxwell Newton, New York
Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, in his evidence to Congress, has made it clear that he intends to protect the dollar. It had fallen far enough, he said.

Let us be clear about this - say move by a central bank to protect the value of its currency must involve a restrictive monetary policy in the domestic economy. There is no other means for a central bank to "protect" its currency.

Because of the growing weakness of the US economy in the second half of 1984 the dollar began to lose its strength in February 1985. But, as a result of pressures from the conflicting exporting and importing interests, Mr James Baker, US Treasury Secretary, pulled off the coup of the first G5 meeting. Mr Volcker never approved this policy. Since September he has cut the rate of money growth in half, and has done roughly the same to the adjusted monetary base.

Mr Volcker has never taken part in the G5 process. He has been totally pre-occupied with an imaginary inflationary threat, as his testimony to Congress showed. He has backed up this policy with his 8 per cent federal funds policy.

The question that springs to mind is: Will Mr Volcker's tight money policy protect the dollar from further major declines? It is possible that, in attempting to protect the dollar, (and avoid the inflationary possibilities of a weakening dollar), Mr Volcker will set in train forces which will have the effect of devaluing the dollar still further.

There are reasons for believing this to be the case. Mr Volcker's increasingly restrictive monetary policy will weaken the US economy, making it a much less attractive place for foreigners to invest. He virtually said as much in his testimony when he declared that the Japanese must take steps to accelerate the growth of their domestic economy. The clear inference was that the US can no longer be the "locomotive" for the rest of the world.

By placing the primary emphasis of policy on disinflation, Mr Volcker increased the likelihood of further reductions in US interest rates. Indeed, it is possible that by early 1987 the medium to long-term yield on US bonds will be 7 per cent. This rate will certainly not contribute to a strong dollar.

In other words, Mr Volcker's tight money policy and his 8 per cent federal funds policy are likely to have just the opposite effect from that presumably intended. And this will not be the first time that, by attempting to "tighten the market" with an unrealistic federal funds rate, the central bank has produced perverse results.

Mr Volcker's "disinflationary determination" as part of his plan to protect the currency is likely to lead to an accelerated devaluation of the dollar.

Exco in £1bn merger talks with Morgan Grenfell

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

Morgan Grenfell, the most important merchant bank remaining in private hands, is having exploratory talks with Exco, the financial conglomerate, which "may or may not lead to a merger," the bank confirmed last night.

If approved by shareholders and the Bank of England, the merger would create a group capitalised at about £1 billion with a strong position in banking and corporate finance, stockbroking, gilt-edged dealing and money and currency broking.

Talks have been taking place for a few weeks and leaked out over the weekend. If they came to fruition, Exco would take over the Morgan Grenfell group, with each side ending up with about half the enlarged group.

Exco is valued on the Stock Exchange at about £550 million and has some £350 million cash since selling its controlling stake in Telestar, the US financial information group, last year.

Mr John Gunn, who built up the group, then left following arguments over his ambitious takeover plans and the group has been thought to be in search of a future since last autumn.

A merger with Morgan Grenfell would give the banking group the capital it needs to expand its dealing business after the Stock Exchange big bang this autumn.

It has bought the gilt-edged broker Pember & Boyle and the jobber Fincham Denny. Mr Christopher Reeves, Morgan Grenfell's chief executive, said yesterday that the bank had originally been approached by Exco.

Exco's biggest shareholder Tan Sri Khoo Teck Fatt, the Malaysian businessman, and



Christopher Reeves: "Exco made the first move"
his colleague Mr Alan Ng are in London for an Exco board meeting to discuss the deal.

Mr Ng said yesterday that the separation of the merger was interesting but that they awaited the financial details. "The important thing is whether it

is in the interests of Exco shareholders," he said.

The Bank of England may, however, be the biggest stumbling block. Under the so-called O'Brien letter, promulgated in the early seventies, the Bank insists that a bank should not own more than 10 per cent of a money broker. Money broking is Exco's biggest business although it also owns the WICO Far East stockbroking business.

Preliminary talks have been held at the Bank of England but the Bank confirmed yesterday that the separation doctrine still stands at the request of the market. Mr Reeves said yesterday that Morgan did only 0.07 per cent of its business with Exco.

If the Bank insists on the separation, the deal may not go ahead. Mr Reeves insisted yesterday that other options were available.

Efficiency of BA criticized

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

British Airways' improved profitability may be financially attractive to the Government in the run-up to the airline's privatization, but it is not necessarily indicative of improved efficiency, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

The institute says in its quarterly journal that BA's improved performance is primarily based on the substantial reductions in its labour force, from 56,000 in 1980 to 36,000 in 1984.

"This does not necessarily imply an equally dramatic increase in productivity, because of the possibility of substituting other factors of production for labour, of increasing the contracting out of work, and of changing the output mix."

The institute also stresses that in relation to BA's performance, other airlines, notably British Caledonian, Lufthansa, Alitalia, Japan Airlines and Singapore Airlines, have also increased productivity.

British Airways has improved its relative position, although starting from well behind the competition, the report says.

"Its degree of improvement has been good, but not spectacular, and it remains one of the poorer performers."

New chief for tax board

Sir Lawrence Airey, the chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue, is to retire at the end of June after six years as Britain's top taxman. Sir Lawrence will be 60 next month. He will be succeeded by Mr Anthony Battishill, aged 48, who is a deputy chairman.

Mr Battishill, a graduate of the London School of Economics, has divided his civil service career between the Inland Revenue and the Treasury.

New deal could end tin crisis

By Michael Prest, Financial Correspondent

Agreement to end the tin crisis, which is about to enter its fifth month, could be reached this week after intensive discussions over the weekend produced an outline settlement which will be put to banks, brokers and International Tin Council members today.

ITC and bank sources said that the proposed deal is very close to the original Newco plan put forward just before Christmas by Mr Peter Graham, senior deputy chairman of Standard Chartered Bank, and Mr Ralph Kestevenham, managing director of the broker Gerald Metals.

If a deal is signed this week, tin trading on the London Metal Exchange should resume by the middle of next month. March 17 is a possible date.

The outline deal was reached at 2am on Saturday after 18 hours of negotiations between the ITC and representatives of its creditor banks and brokers. ITC and bank sources admitted that minds had been concentrated by fears that the weak tin price could undermine the economics of Newco.

Under the plan a company, at the moment called Newco, will take over all the ITC's obligations and the stocks, amounting to 85,000 tonnes of the currently valued at £500 million. In return the ITC will be relieved of its debts and its tin buffer stock operation will cease.

The council's gross debts are £900 million.

Iran plea on oil output

In the first sign of a split in the ranks of the Organization of Exporting Countries over the fall in the oil price, Iran's oil minister, Mr Gholamreza Aqazadeh, has called for a temporary halt to oil production - for two weeks or more - to be followed by a co-ordinated cut in production by the 13-member cartel.

In remarks quoted by the Iranian news agency, Iran, he said that if there were no serious measures to limit output "an uncontrollable crisis would be created."

Spot crude oil prices fell to \$13.50 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange on Saturday, the lowest since 1978.

SEC acts to end bid rumours

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The US Securities and Exchange Commission, alarmed by the dramatic shift in the share prices of large companies, has launched an investigation to prevent stock manipulators planting illegal rumours on Wall Street.

Over the past year, when markets have been booming and corporate takeover activity has risen sharply, company after company has fallen victim to a series of carefully planted rumours which have earned large profits for a small group of big investors, the SEC said.

The case of Pennzoil, the oil firm involved in a multi-million dollar legal dispute with Texaco, was cited by the SEC in the first public hearing on the problem.

On January 7, following a news wire report that Texaco had offered to buy the company for \$100 a share, Pennzoil's stock took off, rising from \$63.37 to \$83 a share. Speculators who had bought options on the stock, which jumped from \$37.50 to \$102.50, made a profit of almost 3000 per cent.

But the next day, when both companies denied the rumour, Pennzoil's price dropped from a high of \$91 to \$74.50 at the close and the option price for 100 Pennzoil shares at \$75 a share plummeted to \$40.

The SEC is investigating the incident to determine who started the rumour and who profited.

The Pennzoil episode is apparently not an isolated case. In one frantic fortnight last year, 20 companies were falsely rumoured to be taken over, according to Mr Gary Lynch, the SEC's chief enforcement director.

But the SEC will find it difficult to stop the practice. For example, officials from the big exchanges and from Wall Street firms met in Washington last week but could not agree on the definition of an illegal rumour.

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

The election pattern set by oil and coal

By 1988 (election year, remember?) the Government may have cause to be grateful to not one, but two groups of energy producers. Between them, the miners and Opec have reshaped the pattern of economic growth through Mrs Thatcher's second term.

What they have done between them, in effect, is to damp down the impact on Britain of America's fearful struggles to rebalance its trade position. This had threatened to be the dominant, depressive influence on the world economy between 1984 and 1988. We have already seen the first consequences: as American growth was checked, the whole world slowed down. The growth of world output fell by half between 1984 and 1985.

In Britain, however, this slowdown was conveniently disguised by the economy's rebound from the miners' strike, to an extent that was finally revealed just last week. The output estimates for 1985 record growth of about 3 1/2 per cent, up half a point from 1984. Strip out the rebound from the miners' strike, however, and there was actually a fall in growth from 4 per cent in 1984 to a mere 2 1/2 per cent in 1985.

Had the miners not unwittingly concealed this slowdown, Mr Nigel Lawson's differences with - for example - the Confederation of British Industry might have been a good deal sharper. But with this convenient Scargill effect now out of the statistics, he faced new difficulties in keeping the growth ball rolling. This year might have been just good enough; but not 1987. Then began "Opec Three".

The pessimists (notably in the international financial institutions) still fear that the falling oil price will not do enough to counterbalance American retrenchment. They are worried that the world will react to the huge shifts in purchasing power involved in "Opec Three" very much as it did in the opposite shifts in "Opecs One and Two". When the oil producers jacked up their prices, the losers were forced to cut other imports, while the winners pocketed their gains and increased their trade surpluses: a combination that pushed the world into recession.

The most obvious winners from a falling oil price are Japan and West Germany, America and France; and there is indeed some danger that the first two will simply run up even larger balance of payments surpluses, while the third will go on trying to cut its deficit. Meanwhile, some of the debt-ridden losers will be forced to make painful adjustments; in the usual fashion of economic fate, the good news is slower acting than the bad. But there are some rather important differences between the previous Opec crises and today's.

First of all, a falling, as opposed to a rising, oil price increases the real value of money balances worldwide and thus boosts world wealth and world demand overall. Second, as the price of energy falls, it automatically makes productive capacity that had to be mothballed as the oil price rose economic to use again: no sensible estimates exist of the extent of this spare capacity, but it would be absurd to suppose there will be no boost to supply.

This is the secure foundation for optimism about Opec Three. The effects on Britain are a little more convoluted. They are usefully teased out in the latest forecasts of the London Business School, published today.

Its ready reckoner suggested that every \$5 off the oil price adds roughly half of 1 per cent to Britain's output.

The same rearrangement can be seen in the LBS's inflation forecast. Last October, it forecast 4.3 per cent inflation this year, increasing modestly but dreadingly to 4.6 per cent in 1987. Now it is forecasting 3.8 per cent inflation in 1986, dropping next year to 3.3 per cent.

And unemployment? Well, that too is expected to fall; and a shift from capital-intensive oil production to relatively labour-intensive manufacturing would certainly help. But the decline in the number of jobless is still slow. The LBS adds its influence to the growing pressure for understanding of the problem of hard-core unemployment.

During Opecs One and Two, it was industry that first felt the strain: costs rose, profits fell, before prices adjusted. In the same way, it is now industry that will get first bite at the Opec cherry. It is the immediate boost to company profits from a falling oil price that provides the latest excuse for believing the stock market's present party can carry on. The economic question is whether companies eventually respond to the stimulus of higher profits by investing and expanding, or whether the boost to the economy is dispersed through consumer purchases of still more imports.

It is daft to suppose that there should be no deterioration in Britain's balance of payments after a fall in the oil price. What is important, however, is that we should maintain our market share in manufactured trade.

The LBS is cheerfully optimistic about this: indeed it suggests that the tide of disaster has already turned, and that Britain's share of world trade has held up surprisingly well over the past five years. So its new forecast is a good deal more cheering than the projections it made last autumn; and would be brighter still at an oil price of \$15, rather than the \$20 cautiously assumed. What is even more interesting is that the shape of the forecast has changed dramatically.

Last October, the LBS suggested modest growth in 1986 would fade further in 1987, from 2.4 per cent this year to 2.1 per cent next. Now, by contrast, it is suggesting a bounce. Its growth forecast for 1986 is unchanged, the benefit of lower oil prices is partly offset by the Chancellor's struggle to hold down public borrowing, and the LBS assumes he has no scope for tax cuts.

The LBS's forecast for 1987, however, now shows a growth rate of nearly 3 per cent. Supposing this pattern to be roughly correct, the effect of Opec Three will have been to reshape Mrs Thatcher's second term, from a steady decline in economic growth to a modest economic cycle in which a mild growth-recession is followed by a conveniently timed recovery.

The same rearrangement can be seen in the LBS's inflation forecast. Last October, it forecast 4.3 per cent inflation this year, increasing modestly but dreadingly to 4.6 per cent in 1987. Now it is forecasting 3.8 per cent inflation in 1986, dropping next year to 3.3 per cent.

And unemployment? Well, that too is expected to fall; and a shift from capital-intensive oil production to relatively labour-intensive manufacturing would certainly help. But the decline in the number of jobless is still slow. The LBS adds its influence to the growing pressure for understanding of the problem of hard-core unemployment.

During Opecs One and Two, it was industry that first felt the strain: costs rose, profits fell, before prices adjusted. In the same way, it is now industry that will get first bite at the Opec cherry. It is the immediate boost to company profits from a falling oil price that provides the latest excuse for believing the stock market's present party can carry on. The economic question is whether companies eventually respond to the stimulus of higher profits by investing and expanding, or whether the boost to the economy is dispersed through consumer purchases of still more imports.

in the first year, and more than 1 per cent in the second and third years, while paring a point off the inflation rate in the first year. The mechanism is a fall in the exchange rate, which boosts competitiveness and thus Britain's opportunity to take advantage of world trade.

The LBS's first caveat is that the advantage can easily be destroyed by government, if it raises interest rates to prevent the fall in the pound. That lesson certainly seems to have been absorbed by the British Treasury.

The second caveat, however, is that industry can throw the advantage away with equal ease.

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Why food stores are having a thin time

The food retailing sector has significantly underperformed the rest of the market in recent weeks. This repeats the pattern in all but three years of the previous decade, as the excitement of Christmas dies down, and reflects a lack of company announcements to push the shares to even higher ratings.

This year, however, the decline in the price of oil has provided further downward pressure. Consumer spending forecasts have been lowered as the outlook for interest rates and possible tax cuts has worsened.

Food retailers' profits are nearly all from Britain, and the deteriorating outlook for sterling has also reduced the sector's short-term earnings prospects compared with companies with major exporting or overseas interests.

Thus the food retailers have underperformed the market by 5.2 per cent since January 1, almost as bad as the oil sector, which has underperformed by 6.6 per cent. In the short-term, oil price movements are likely to remain the dominant factor in performance.

The strengths of the sector should not be forgotten, however. With increases in average earnings continuing to exceed the level of general inflation, real growth in British consumer spending of between 2 and 3 per cent is expected to be maintained

through 1986 and beyond. Although the food retailers are less highly geared to this than the non-food or "stores" sector, spending levels are important for sales of upmarket foods and non-food products.

Food price inflation averaged only 1.6 per cent in 1985 after the bumper harvest of 1984, and is showing some recovery (as measured by The Grocer), and this will be a further boost for sales and profits.

Falling oil prices are expected to stimulate the economy in the long term. This, although there is little to push the sector index higher in the short term, a solid base exists for future earnings growth.

The big is beautiful adage applies well to food retailing. The bigger groups wield enormous power over the manufacturers, seizing significantly better prices and credit terms than their smaller rivals. This, with other economies of scale, makes it increasingly difficult for the less powerful operators to compete on price.

The top four quoted supermarket groups together now control about 40 per cent of the grocery market. The independents have lost market share, and the trend is likely to continue.

Legislation to relax shop hours this year would probably reinforce these changes, as evening and Sunday trading

has been mainly the preserve of independents. The expansion-minded groups are competing for sites to build up their share before a saturation point is reached. With site costs rising dramatically, most members of the sector, with the notable exception of Kwik Save, are no longer cash generative.

This has, however, contributed to an easing of pricing pressures. With all available resources directed towards capital spending, no group is likely to initiate a price war like that by Tesco in 1977.

The economies of scale are also leading to considerable takeover activity within the sector, as the groups attempt to raise their sales through the acquisition of less powerful competitors.

The big three - Sainsbury, Tesco and Asda - would probably be prevented from acquiring smaller supermarket groups by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, but other companies, notably Argyl and Dees, have been rapidly increasing their buying power through acquisition.

The old businesses of Hinton's, Key Markets, Lemmons and International have all been absorbed into larger chains, and in the longer term it will become increasingly hard for the regional supermarket groups to remain independent. This explains the high ratings enjoyed by

Morrisons, Hilliards, William Low and Normans. Other changes in market share stem from shifts in customer requirements. Increasing real wealth among those in employment has led to a demand for broader ranges of more attractively-presented products, with comparative prices becoming less of a factor.

Convenience is becoming even more important, particularly with the increasing number of women at work, and long-term outlook for market share depends mainly on location and size of store and the availability of car parking. Thus, despite Asda's recent trading difficulties, its buying power and excellent site portfolio should help to ensure a good recovery in the longer term.

The rapid growth in the frozen food market over the past 10 years owes much to this increasing emphasis on convenience, and has been given a significant lift by the success of microwave ovens.

However, the frozen food specialists - particularly Bejam and Iceland - are likely to find it increasingly difficult to justify a separate shopping trip, and the major supermarket multiples could gain significant market share in this area.

The rise of the convenience store is part of this trend. Cullen's is the only quoted pure convenience store opera-

tor, although Guinness has identified this area as promising. Although such a store is never likely to provide for the weekly shopping, and is forced to charge significantly higher prices than the supermarket groups, the right location can lead to excellent turnover.

Market share for convenience stores is expected to rise, although they remain more vulnerable than most food retailers to any swings in consumer spending.

What of superstore saturation? It could renew price competition, possibly giving back some control to the manufacturers. What seems more likely is that the market will then be concentrated in so few hands that none would want to start a serious price war.

Instead, the strong cash flow could be used to diversify away from the food retailing sector. Some groups have already done this, for instance Asda with MFI and Sainsbury with Homebase. And Argyl has pursued Distillers.

The food retailing groups to back for the longer term are those which, while continuing to justify a separate shopping trip, and the major supermarket multiples could gain significant market share in this area.

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Japanese criticized over whisky

The Scotch whisky industry will this week step up pressure on Japan to relax import restrictions, which it believes are depressing sales to Japan by half.

Mr Bill Bewsher, director-general of the Scotch Whisky Association, told a press conference in Edinburgh at the weekend: "Japan can no longer

have it both ways. It is a major trading nation and if it wishes to have continued access to overseas markets it must allow products such as Scotch whisky to compete on fair and equal terms."

A delegation from the association, which is visiting Japan this week and is supported by the EEC, will urge Japan to

tax and apply duty on all spirits on the basis of alcohol content. Despite the import constraints, annual exports of Scotch whisky to Japan are running at 15.3 million litres or 20 million bottles, and Japan remains the third largest export market for Scotch.



We are pleased to announce the opening of our Representative Office in Tokyo

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Tel (03) 213-4011, Fax (03) 213-4017, Telex J33912 OPPLAIN G

Claire Smellie, The author is food retailing analyst at Helbert Wagg.

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

Table with columns: No., Company, Year gain or loss. Lists various companies like CAP Gp, NEI, Presco, Scholes (GH), etc.

Weekly Dividend table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, SUNDAY. Includes a note: 'Please make a note of your daily totals for a weekly dividend of £30,000 on Saturday's newspaper.'

BRITISH FUNDS table with columns: Stock, Price, Gain, Loss, Dividend, etc.

SHORTS (Under Five Years) table with columns: Stock, Price, Gain, Loss, Dividend, etc.

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns: Stock, Price, Gain, Loss, Dividend, etc.

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns: Stock, Price, Gain, Loss, Dividend, etc.

UNDATED table with columns: Stock, Price, Gain, Loss, Dividend, etc.

INDEX-LINKED table with columns: Stock, Price, Gain, Loss, Dividend, etc.

BANKS DISCOUNT HP table with columns: Stock, Price, Gain, Loss, Dividend, etc.

ELECTRICALS table with columns: Stock, Price, Gain, Loss, Dividend, etc.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Capitalization and week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin today. Dealings End March 10. Contango Day March 10. Settlement Day, March 17. Forward Bargains are permitted on two previous days

BREWERIES table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Gain, Loss, Dividend, etc.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Gain, Loss, Dividend, etc.

FINANCE AND LAND table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Gain, Loss, Dividend, etc.

FOODS table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Gain, Loss, Dividend, etc.

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Gain, Loss, Dividend, etc.

CINEMAS AND TV table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Gain, Loss, Dividend, etc.

DRAPERY AND STORES table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Gain, Loss, Dividend, etc.

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THE TIMES Portfolio DAILY DIVIDEND £2,000 Claims required for +63 points Claimants should ring 0254-53272

OIL table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Gain, Loss, Dividend, etc.

OVERSEAS TRADERS table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Gain, Loss, Dividend, etc.

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Gain, Loss, Dividend, etc.

PROPERTY table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Gain, Loss, Dividend, etc.

SHIPPING table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Gain, Loss, Dividend, etc.

SHOES AND LEATHER table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Gain, Loss, Dividend, etc.

TEXTILES table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Gain, Loss, Dividend, etc.

TOBACCO table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Gain, Loss, Dividend, etc.

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THE TIMES Portfolio... THE TIMES MONDAY FEBRUARY 27 1985... FINANCE AND INDUSTRY 17

USM REVIEW

Breakthrough for Hoggett

Note the recent strength in the share price of Hoggett Bowers. After languishing for months below its issue price, the share has made the all-important psychological break above the 48p placing price and moved smartly to 64p.

Growth over the past five years has been excellent, but the offer for sale of shares last year went badly wrong. The issue was greatly oversubscribed, but too much stock ended in the hands of stages and there was no institutional support to hold the price firm in early dealings.

Profits before tax rose 18

UNLISTED SECURITIES table with columns for Company, Price, Change, Dividend, etc. Includes companies like A & M Co, A & M Selection, A & M Selection, etc.

COMPANY NEWS

LANCASHIRE & LONDON INVESTMENT TRUST: Final dividend 5.12p making 7.12p (3.12p) for 1985. Pre-tax profit £495,826 (£200,822).

DOMINO PRINTING SCIENCES: In his annual statement, the chairman, Mr G. Minto, reports that the group balance sheet is strong, with shareholders' funds of more than £5 million, no long-term debt and the substantial cash balances raised by the flotation.

WILLIAMS HOLDINGS-SPENCER CLARK: The recommended offer by Williams Holdings for Spencer Clark Metal Industries has been accepted for 4.86 million shares (93.7 per cent).

RENOWNED: Dividend, 12.5 pence (same) for 1985. Net sales reached £220,167 million yen (about £847 million), against £212,494 million yen. Net profit 5,721 million yen (5,708 million yen).

GILT-EDGED

Bonds fly in the face of dark possibilities

The global village gorged itself to near-satiety last week on a diet of rumour, superstition and half-fact. It was rich, medieval and, above all, highly profitable. Bond prices flew upwards, seemingly without constraint.

James Baker, the US Treasury Secretary, said much the same thing last week. The role of the Opec countries in this nexus remains fairly ambiguous. On the one hand, falling oil prices rob them of revenue.

In the UK, long gilt yields finally fell below 10 per cent, after an amazing surge towards the end of the Friday trading session.

But the counter to a scenario of perpetually falling bond yields remains the central banking response.

The Bank now appears to have switched tactics. No sooner, for example, had Mr Takeshita opined last week than Mr Sumita, the Governor of the Bank of Japan, contradicted his call for a discount rate cut.

Japan, as a major beneficiary of falling oil prices, is keen to curb the corresponding surge in its current account surplus. Hence rates should fall. Meanwhile, the United States remains a straight beneficiary of lower energy costs.

Whether or not the logic in this argument is too simplistic, the fact remains that both American and Japanese bonds have recently reacted as if it were correct.

Buying enthusiasm has received fresh impetus from statements by both the Japanese and American equivalents of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Takeshita, the Japanese Finance Minister, suggested that his discount rate was poised to fall. Mr

growth but perhaps not a cut in its price. Mr Volcker's caution is understandable. The US discount rate could not fall, for the time being, because of the continuing erosion of the dollar on the foreign exchange markets. Perhaps the spectre of rising inflation fears would provoke all kinds of dollar portfolio adjustments, notably by the Saudis, at a time when the adverse effect of lower oil prices, debtor country default, would start to rear its head again.

The central banks are clearly aiming for stable currencies. If this was Mr Volcker's line of thinking, then it was remarkably perceptive. By the weekend, Mexico was rumoured to be in difficulties.

Bond markets, however, are still ignoring these dark possibilities and are concentrating on the brighter side of life. The gilts market, for example, looks set for a further run this week.

Notable in the past five trading sessions have been the huge build-up in trading volume, and the well-kept unshakable underlying firmness, despite the jobbers' attempts to slam prices. Effectively, London has been transformed into a geared way into the New York market, with the lower oil price argument subtly traded.

Selling these markets is unthinkable, when prices pound ahead. Equally, holding stock carries a manifest risk when the yield gap from money market rates is about 250 basis points. And if markets do crack, then of course the authorities cannot be blamed, because they have very deliberately stood aside from the recent price surge, leaving traders to their own devices. Naturam expelles furca, tamen usque recurret?

Christopher Dunn
Orion Royal Bank

Plessey third quarter: £41.9 million pre-tax profits

- Operating profit increased by 16.2%
Interim dividend increased by 15.2% to 2.072p per share.
Turnover per employee up by 12.9%

1985-86 third quarter results. An extract from The Plessey Company's unaudited consolidated accounts. Table with columns for 13 weeks ended 27 Dec 1985, 13 weeks ended 28 Dec 1984, 39 weeks ended 27 Dec 1985. Rows include Turnover, Operating profit, Profit before taxation, Earnings per share.

Shareholders are reminded that enquiries should be directed to our Investor Relations Office based at Millbank Tower, 21-24 Millbank, London SW1P 4QP, telephone 01-834 3855. The Plessey Company plc, Vicarage Lane, Ilford, Essex IG1 4AQ. PLESSEY logo.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS table with columns for Company, Price, Change, Dividend, etc. Includes companies like A & M Co, A & M Selection, A & M Selection, etc.

BASE LENDING RATES table listing various banks and their rates. Includes ABN, Adam & Company, BCCI, etc. Also includes BOARD MEETINGS section with dates for various companies.

THE "SHELL" TRANSPORT AND TRADING COMPANY, P.L.C. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a balance of the Register will be struck on Monday, 3rd March, 1985 for the payment of the half-yearly dividend payable on the FIRST PREFERENCE SHARES for the six months ending 31st March, 1985. The dividend will be paid on 1st April, 1985.

February 24, 1986

A taxing time for people's future wealth

For the first time in anyone's memory pensions are a sexy subject. Although the general opinion of the Government's proposals on personal pensions is that they have, once again, made a dog's dinner of things. In terms of making the average employee aware of how much of his cash is tied up in a pension scheme, the exercise has to be judged a resounding success.

The nation's greed has been aroused and many people believe, rightly or wrongly, that personal pensions are the way to get their hands on the money locked up in occupational pension schemes.

Though it is a major achievement to have got the general public interested in a subject which has hitherto produced terminal boredom there is no ignoring the fact that the whole pension scene is an absolute mess. Since the DHSS apparently does not talk to the Inland Revenue or Superannuation Funds Office, the fundamental problem associated with personal portable pensions remains, not only unresolved, but even more of a muddle than it was before.

The Government's objectives are three-fold. First, to offload some of the expense of providing for people in retirement; second, to encourage job mobility by making it easier for people to take their pensions with them when they change employment; and third, to give working people a real interest in what is probably their biggest investment.

But instead of starting from scratch and deciding how best to achieve these objectives, officials at the

Department of Health and Social Security were asked to look at the ways of cutting the cost of Serps (the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme) and devise a scheme which would encourage people to take out personal pension plans, with no reference to the overall tax structure of pensions — fundamental to solving the pensions conundrum.

Until the Government tackles the tax problems, there can be no real portability of pensions. The new proposals leave a host of unanswered questions which must be dealt with.

At the moment an employer can push as much cash as he likes into an

6 The nation's greed has been aroused and many believe personal pensions are the way to get their hands on locked-up money

occupational pension scheme and obtain tax relief on these contributions, because the limitation is on the amount of eventual pension paid to members at retirement age.

With a personal pension policy the restrictions are on tax relief on contributions to the plan — and the pension can be any amount or proportion of previous earnings. How then can there be any harmony between the two?

Though the new proposals give limited rights to job changers in terms of up-rating of deferred pension benefits, and the right to

contract out of the State scheme, they do not tackle some of the fundamental problems associated with pensions.

The vast majority of workers have inadequate pensions and need to make extra provision for their retirement. Yet nothing has been done to enable those who are in an inadequate occupational scheme, or those job changers who have much reduced pensions, to obtain tax relief on contributions to a top-up personal pension.

The Government would say its proposals are designed to encourage people to make extra voluntary contributions to their existing occupational pension scheme. But nothing has been done to give the employee any real freedom of choice.

If his company has an AVC scheme (Additional Voluntary Contributions) which is part of the main pension scheme, and that scheme is under-funded, then it is madness to encourage anyone to pay extra contributions into such a scheme, since it will inevitably be poor value for money.

The employee could get a better deal elsewhere — except that he can't because the new pension regulations have done nothing to solve this problem. As a member of an occupational scheme — however bad — he still cannot get tax relief on contributions to a personal pension plan.

Similarly, it's all very well ruling that deferred pension benefits, from January 1986, must be up-rated by the lesser of 3 per cent a year, or the rate of inflation.

But what if the pension scheme rules give no right to deferred pension at all if the employee leaves within a certain number of years?

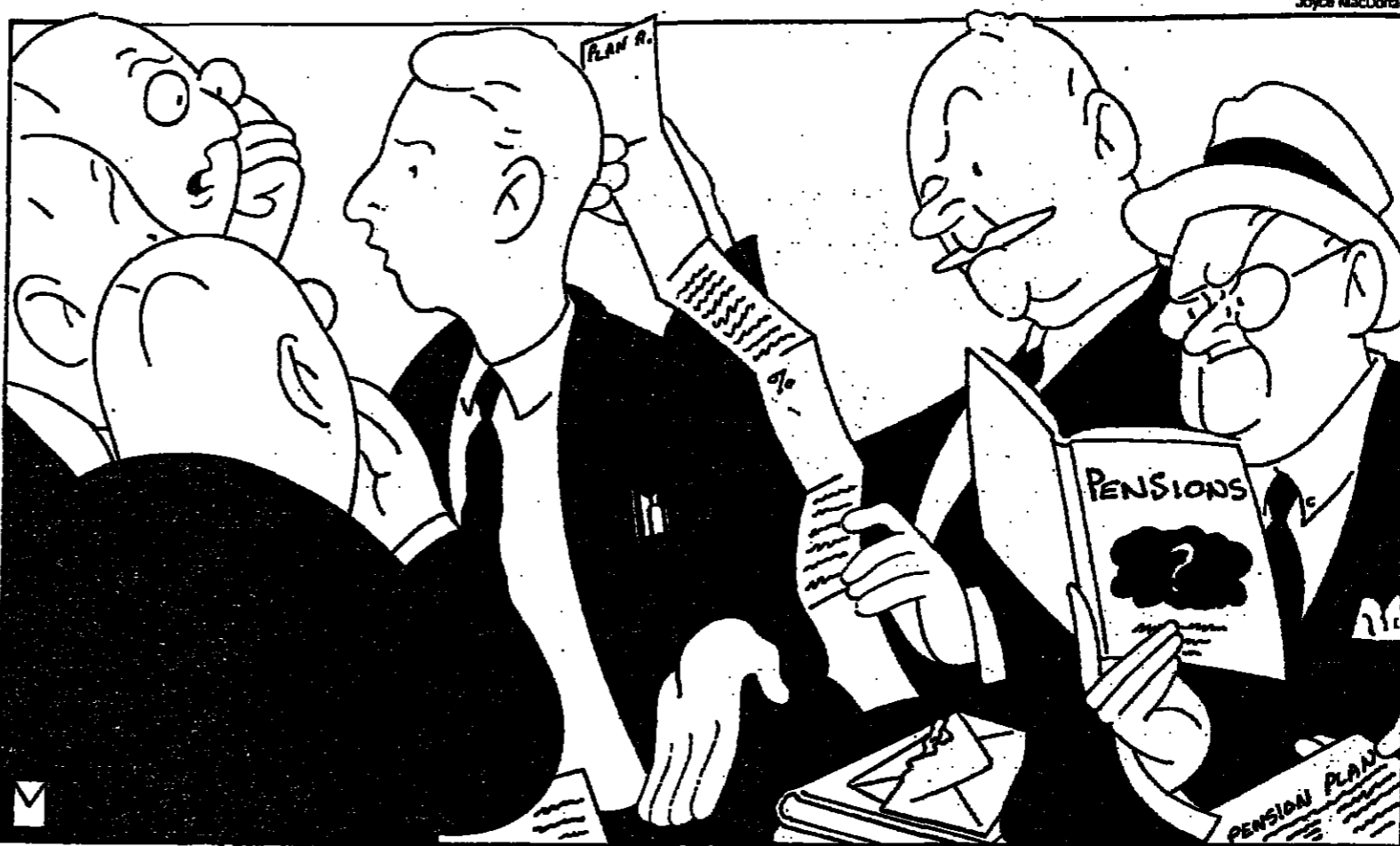
It is still possible for an employee to be a member of a company pension scheme and leave that employment without any pension rights at all.

There are other lesser nonsenses, such as the fact that the Government wants financial institutions such as building societies and banks to offer personal pension plans — but under current legislation annuities must still be bought from insurance companies.

The Government cannot complain that it has been short of advice. The weight of paper written on solutions to the pensions puzzle is enough to smother even the civil servants.

But the trouble is the DHSS does not understand taxation and has no brief in any case to tinker with the tax angles of pensions, while the Inland Revenue is not interested in pensions beyond the taxation of them.

Lorna Bourke



Minister in charge: Norman Fowler, who proposed the abolition of Serps, then retreated in the face of wholesale criticism and produced a compromise solution

The snag about switching jobs

One of the most common areas of dissatisfaction among employees who have an occupational pension scheme is what happens to their accumulation pension rights if they switch jobs. Early leavers, as they are known, often complain that the options available to them when they change jobs are too narrow, and that the value of their accrued rights is far less than they had expected.

Certainly recent legislation has to an extent addressed both of these grievances. The Social Security Act 1985, which largely came into force on January 3 this year, improved the available choices for early leavers as well as laying down certain rules which, while not necessarily going to produce the valuation that the early leaver would want or expect, will nevertheless ensure that some sort of fair valuation is arrived at.

Under the old law an employee must have worked at least five years for a company and be at least 26 years old before becoming entitled to a deferred or frozen pension. In other words, unless both these requirements had been satisfied, an employee did not have the right to keep his or her pension in the company's scheme when moving to another job.

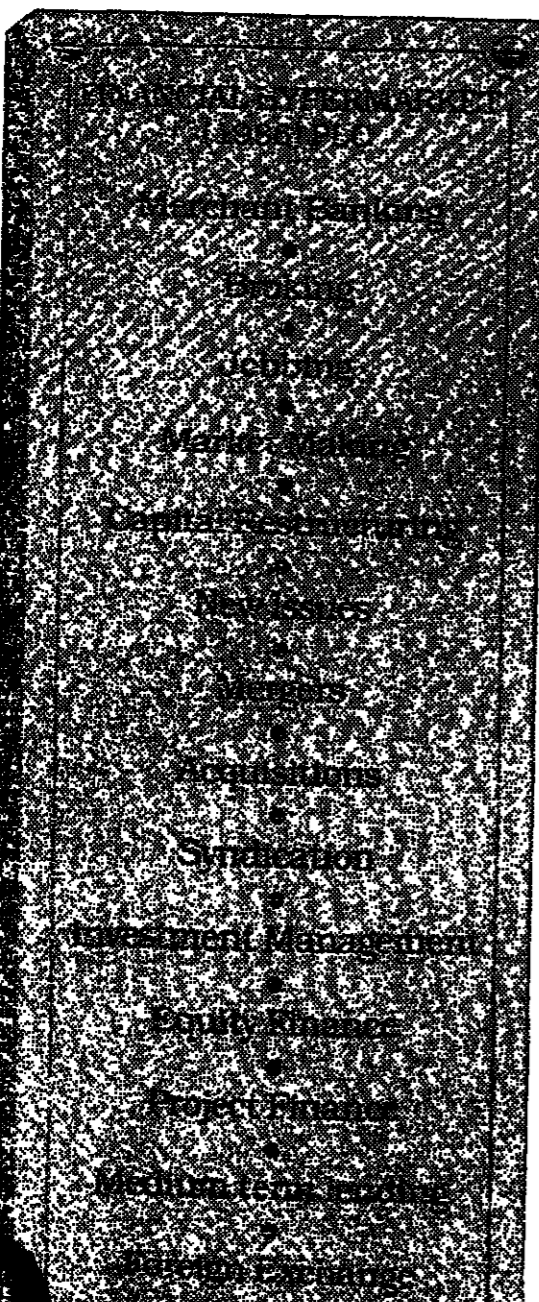
The new act changes the position slightly in that the age requirement is scrapped, leaving five years pensionable service as the sole qualifying condition for a deferred or frozen pension.

Another improvement introduced by the Social Security Act 1985 is to require companies to increase the value of deferred pensions annually. While many companies had

Continued on page 22

INSIDE: The Serps U-turn, page 22 • Getting the best advice, page 23 • Making sure of your rights, page 23

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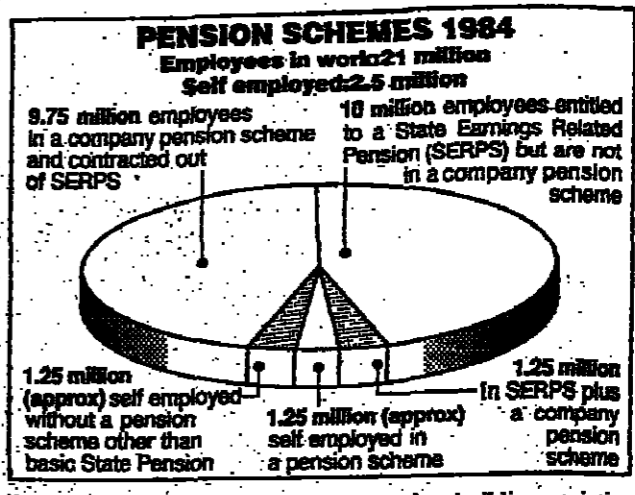
PENSIONS/2

A sensible compromise on the Serps U-turn

The Government tried last year to put through one of the most radical changes it has proposed since Mrs Thatcher came to office. It attempted to get agreement for plans to overturn the state pensions system established in the 1970s...

Serps now gives an inflation-proof pension related to final salary on top of the basic state pension. This was a mixture of pragmatic planning and ideology.

Mr Fowler took the sensible course and retreated. The compromise now achieved still makes savings in the future cost of Serps - by about the year 2030 it will be costing roughly £13 billion a year.



The Social Security Bill embodying this compromise is now on its way through Parliament and the new pensions system will come into force in 1988.

Trade unions objected believing their members would be worse off, while employers objected believing the new system would cost them much more.

Most surprising of all, the pensions industry itself objected. Far from seeing the transfer of pensions to the private

sector as a gift, life companies saw enormous complications and expenses in implementation and correctly objected that many of the lower paid would be big losers.

Particularly badly hit will be widows who will no longer receive the whole of their spouses pension. Temporary workers, such as married women, who leave employment for a time and then rejoin it, will also suffer.

Between employer and employee, will be at the full National Insurance contracted-out rate - likely to be set at 5.75 per cent.

To avoid confusion in administering these schemes, the new system allows for a central pensions clearing house paid for and run by the Department of Health and Social Security which will receive the contributions of the individual and employer and pass them on to the relevant pension company.

companies, building societies and banks. A similar system in the US was introduced in 1980 which indicates the way people in Britain may behave with personal pensions.

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Advertisement for Touche Remnant Pension Fund Management featuring a portrait of a man and the text 'Independent thought'.

Improvements for early leavers

Continued from page 20 already adopted a policy of voluntarily increased deferred pensions, many others simply left them untouched and flat.

Another change by the new legislation is the requirement from the beginning of this year for all company pension schemes to offer early leavers a transfer pension as an alternative to leaving the pension rights where they are.

As for section 32 policies, these vary considerably and at the same time offer the standard range of with-profits, unit-linked, deposit administration and non-profits choices.

Advertisement for R. WATSON & SONS CONSULTING ACTUARIES, providing impartial advice on pension schemes.

Advertisement for PENSIONS MARKETING MANAGER featuring an eagle logo and the text 'Identifying change in the pensions business environment.'

Advertisement for M&G's strong line in pensions, featuring a line graph and the text 'M&G's strong line in pensions'.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page: 'سكوا من الأصل'

FOCUS

PENSIONS/3

Don't leave it too late for the best results

Most employees forget about pensions until they are near retirement age. As a result most are ignorant of their rights. A few enlightened companies go out of their way to make up for this deficiency by ensuring that their pension schemes make regular reports to members, but they are the exception.

Last year's Social Security Act introduced general requirements on providing information to pension scheme members but the details were left to regulations which have yet to be drawn up. It is already clear, however, that they will require huge changes in practice to be made.

The regulations are likely to be based on recommendations made in a consultative paper published as long ago as February 1984. This suggested that schemes should make available annual reports which say whether the scheme is funded or not and which contains a set of audited accounts, an auditor's report and a summary description of the scheme's assets. In addition it recommended that the report include a statement on borrowings, the names of the investment managers and an actuarial statement, renewed every three years, on the level of funding.

Racot & Woodrow, the consulting actuary, says the actuarial statement should be divided in two parts dealing separately with benefits accrued to date and the on-going position. It argues that there is considerable difficulty about giving details of the methods

and assumptions employed in arriving at the actuarial statements as there are so many different approaches in current use. It even says the information could be confusing to most readers of accounts.

The consultative paper suggested that trustees and employees would be responsible for bringing the report and accounts to the attention of members and that displaying it on a noticeboard would be sufficient for the purpose.

The reports would also have to be sent to representatives of recognized trade unions. The original plan for setting up a pension reports registry has been dropped, though the decision will be reviewed in three years' time.

Other information which might be required includes a record of past increases in pensions, details on how transfer values are worked out, information on the trustees and individual benefit statements. A recent survey has

Good information in short supply

found that these requirements would necessitate a drastic improvement in the level of information supplied. Of the 414 schemes taking part, 39 per cent did not publish an annual report for members, 78 per cent did not provide one for early leavers and 61 per cent did not supply the information to people who have already retired.

Clare Dobie

Greater Security for the Rights and Expectations of Members of Occupational Pension Schemes.

Company Pension Schemes Survey, PPL, BIM.

Where to go to get the advice that matters



Advice on pensions for the eleven and a half million people who are estimated to have an occupational or company pension scheme is not always easy to find. The pension consultants and actuaries advising on company pension schemes are usually concerned with giving advice to the company, rather than to individual beneficiaries of the company's pension scheme.

In theory you can seek their advice, if you consider it necessary, but the practical realities are such that the costs would generally make such an approach prohibitive.

Fortunately, there is a fair amount of clear and reasonably comprehensive literature aimed at getting the layman to understand what his or her pension is made up of, what all the technical jargon means, and what you can expect from your occupational pension.

There are also a couple of bodies prepared to help with occupational pension schemes without charge. The Consumers' Association, whose publications are often models of clarity and thoroughness, has published a book entitled: What will my pension be? It costs £4.95 and is available from most large bookshops or from the association.

For the beginner it represents an excellent guide through the complications of pensions and pensionspeak. The book is not specifically devoted to company pension schemes, although it does cover the various types in detail. An alternative, or even supplementary source of written information (it is free) comes from an organization called the Company Pensions Information Centre.

The CPIC publishes a number of clear, amusingly illustrated booklets, under titles such as: What Pension Terms Mean, How a Pension Fund Works, Pensions for Women, and How to Understand your Pension Scheme.

There are six booklets in all and are available from the CPIC. You must send a stamped addressed envelope, with £5.95 postage.

If you have a problem with or any confusion about your pension scheme then your first port of call is your scheme authority - generally the trustees of the pension fund or their agents. It is only if you do not get satisfaction from this approach that you can consider contacting the Occupational Pensions Advisory Service (OPAS).

OPAS is a registered charity which is funded by contributions mainly from large institutions such as the high street clearing banks, various insurance companies and companies such as Rank Xerox and British Petroleum.

OPAS has been operational for more than two years and its running costs are about £35,000 a year. It has 150 occupational pension scheme advisers spread throughout the country, all of whom work on a voluntary basis and generally have a long-standing connection with the pensions industry. So they will often be pension fund managers, retired or still working, or members of the Institute of Actuaries.

"A lot of people approach us through the local Citizens Advice Bureaux," says Mr Terry Brand, deputy chairman of OPAS. The chairman is Margaret Granger OBE.

"If people have not been satisfied after an approach to the scheme authority they can approach OPAS. A considerable number of enquiries we receive can be answered immediately. If not then the enquiry or approach will be dealt with as a case," says Mr Brand.

But this does not mean that OPAS will engage in protracted negotiations on your behalf. "We are not the Ombudsman," says Mr Brand. "What we do is advise or put forward our views as to what people's rights are under the terms of the rules of the particular scheme and under the law of trusts."

"If we have permission from the person who has approached us we will talk to the employer and express our views. Then we leave it to the parties to finalize matters. Sometimes we get joint approaches from an employer and employee but this does not happen often."

One of the unfortunate aspects of the work that OPAS does is the number of times it witnesses what Mr Brand calls "tragedies".

"We often have to tell people, 'sorry but you have a miserable pension', and there have been the most ghastly cases of fraud where people

have lost all the pension they were expecting," he says.

On the whole, he says, most company pension schemes are well run, although there are a number on the fringe where employees can get a rough ride.

Then there are cases where people just cannot understand why their pension is so low compared to those of contemporaries in similar jobs.

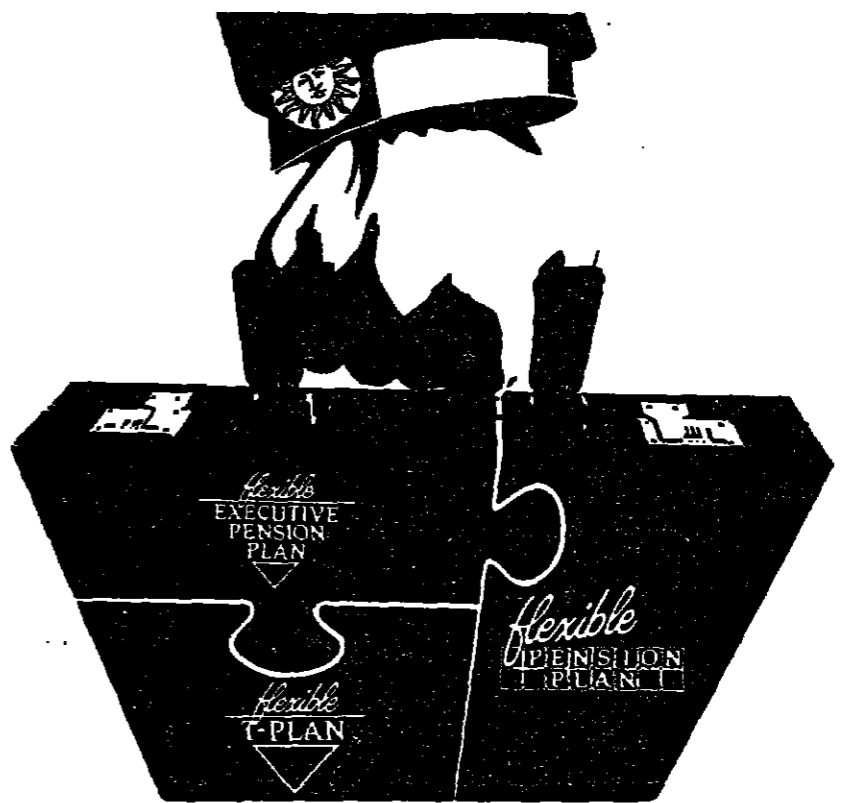
Another organization that provides a measure of assistance is the Company Pensions Information Centre, which was set up by a consortium of life offices 11 years ago.

"We give information but not advice," says David Barrett, information manager at CPIC. "Individual members of the public do come in for advice. We are happy to help them to understand pension schemes generally, but we will not delve into the rules of individual pension schemes. We don't check the figures but we help people to understand the process."

As well as providing information to individuals, CPIC does a lot of public speaking at chambers of commerce, pension conferences, gatherings of the Institute of Chartered Accountants. The booklets it produces also take up a lot of working time.

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The Company Pensions Information Centre, 7 Old Park Lane, London W1Y 3LJ. OPAS, Room 327, Aviation House, 129 Kingsway, London WC2B 6NN.



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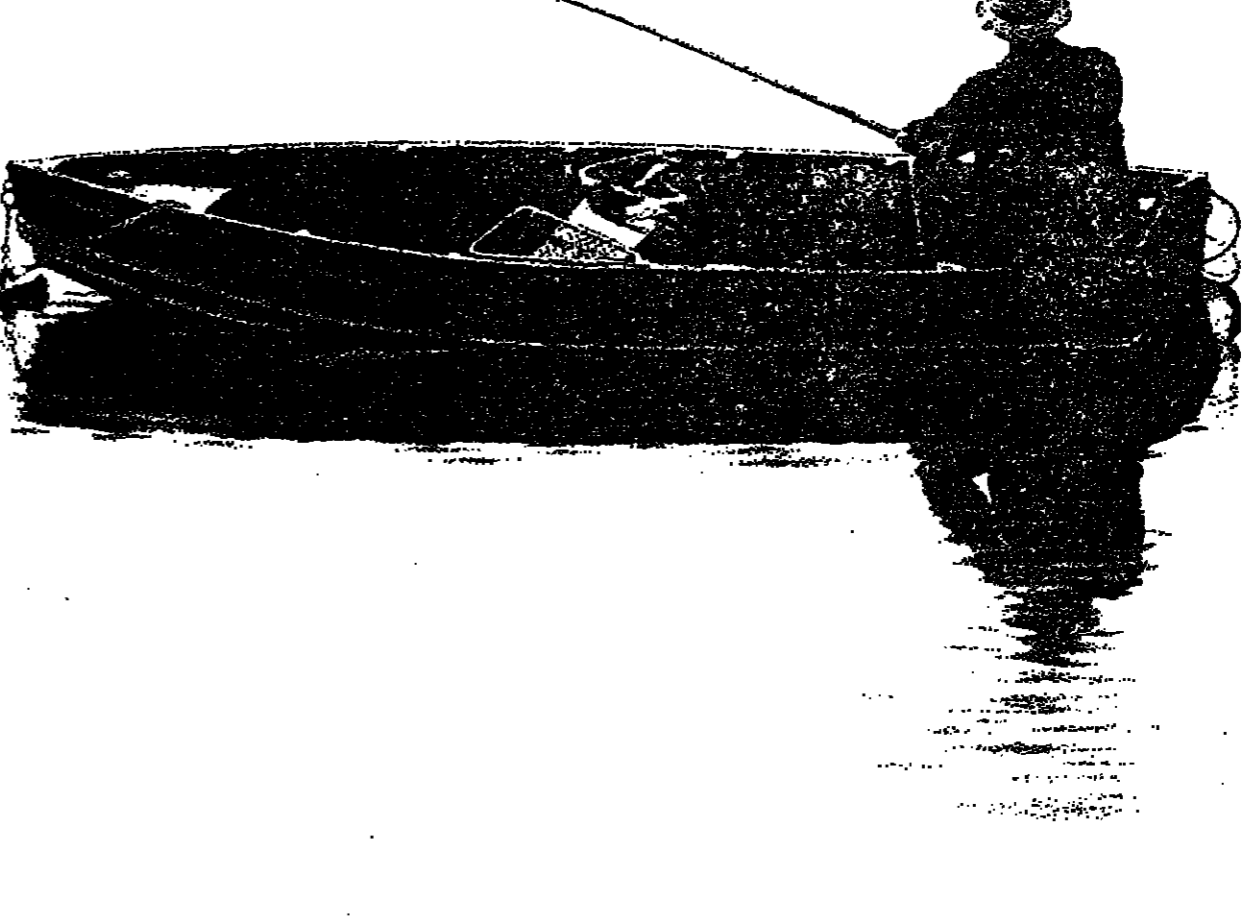


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SPORT FOOTBALL

Freeze-up adds insult to the injuries that spoil Robson's choice

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

Some World Cup finalists, such as the hosts, Mexico, will have spent more than a year on their build-up to this summer's tournament. Others will have been practising for six months. The preparations of England, the nation with by far the most demanding domestic programme, will almost certainly last little more than a fortnight.

Last month, for the opening trial in Egypt, club commitments forced Bobby Robson to redesign his plans. So many of his representatives were ruled out that, even with the belated addition of four players, he took a squad of only 17 to Cairo. Now the disruption has been caused by an equally familiar problem, injuries.

Yesterday Robson flew to Tel Aviv with three members of the side who probably would have lined up against Israel on Wednesday. Hately, who may be out for three weeks after having his tonsils removed, was joined on the casualty list by Lineker, suffering from a back strain, and Reid, victim of a pulled groin muscle.

The reluctant withdrawal of Lineker immediately after Saturday's Merseyside derby ends his own sequence of six successive appearances, during which he scored five goals. It also compounds the break-up of England's strike force. Wallace, the winger chosen to make his debut in support of Lineker and Hately in Egypt, is not even in the party.

England's manager is left with a limited choice of three centre forwards, none of whom would under normal circumstances have been expected to start against the Israelis. Dixon has not played for a month, Woodcock has not been picked regularly by his club and Beardsley's international career is a mere 30 minutes old.

Although Harford had been placed on an unofficial standby list, Robson considered that he has adequate cover in attack. The only replacement to be summoned was Hill, his Luton Town colleague, who came on as a substitute in Cairo two and a half years after winning his last cap. The squad has been cut to 20.

Robson can foresee similar troubles ahead. The weight of fixture congestion is growing heavier by the day and weather forecasts suggest that it will not be appreciably eased before next week. Some sides, such as Everton, could be involved in at least two games a week for the rest of the season.

It would be outrageously optimistic to imagine that the squads assembled for the practice matches, in the Soviet Union next month and against Scotland in April, will not be weakened, perhaps severely. The strongest side may not be gathered together until May 16, against Guadalajara in Los Angeles. In 18 days, in other words, before England's opening World Cup tie against Portugal.

Robson's men by then may be suffering from fatigue but half of those on yesterday's preliminary list were relatively fresh. Ten of them have been idle for a week or more. Some of those who were active on Saturday when the pools panel



Changing of the old Palace guards: Luton's Nicholas (right) crosses swords with QPR's Fenwick (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

Dalglish has to master the art of running for cover

By Clive White

Liverpool 0 Everton 2

The trouble with awards is that by their nature they tend to apply to yesterday's work rather than today's. Consequently, they have a nasty habit of being presented at inopportune moments, as was one by a Scottish distillery to Kenny Dalglish prior to the Merseyside derby kick-off on Saturday for being January's manager of the month.

Dalglish might well have been tempted to give back the whisky an hour and a half later. For while the Scot, in his new off-field role, has manoeuvred Liverpool into a challenging position for multiple honours because of injury as they seem to have been overtaken in recent weeks by indecision, as much as injuries, which stems directly from the top.

Most importantly, the time has come when Dalglish to look into his wardrobe and decide manager's suit or playing kit. For my own part I would rather see him attempting the more rewarding feat of intimidating opposing defences than Dalglish's traditional press conferences. Despite professing to be a player-manager, he has shown almost a reluctance to take the field, regularly excusing himself from training because of injury as though he were finding the dual role, not surprisingly, too demanding.

While Wales was fit and with itself into the thick of things, however, almost conceding a penalty or two, notably when battling Richardson while trying to bring relief to a comically misunderstanding between himself and Grobbelaar. The goalkeeper played a minor part in this episode but, as someone said prophetically and not a little unsympathetically at half-time, with his past convictions he could never be wholly absolved from any crime.

So it proved in the 74th minute when, having made his second commendable save of the game, one-handed and soft to Stevens, he allowed a soft shot from, of all people, Ratcliffe which took an even softer deflection to squirm under his body and cross ever so slowly over the goal-line.

One could only guess at Grobbelaar's anguish. Whoever has nightmares in daylight with 45,000 people sniggering at you? And, of course, the television cameras were there just to ensure it becomes a recurring nightmare as he is not haunted by enough of them already.

His future is something else about which Dalglish must decide. He will have to start tending to Grobbelaar's debts and credits. Dropping Grobbelaar is unlikely to have any effect on what Grobbelaar drops, since the problem is one of personality not form. How envious Dalglish must be of Everton with the fanatical Scottish and behind him Munnings, an England under-21 goalkeeper. It is a lesson in cover which Dalglish has yet to learn.

Everton's second goal, about which there was a hint of off-side rather than the five-yard margin which Dalglish claimed, was inconsequential except to Lineker, for whom it was his 30th of the season.

What might be of consequence is that Liverpool's defeat, their first at Anfield in 11 months, is only the third at home to Everton in 16 years. After the other two, in 1970 and last year, Everton went on to win the championship.

Carpet ad's artificial impression

By David Powell

QPR Luton Town 1

It is more than mere coincidence that Luton Town are heading for their highest ever League position in their first season of playing on an artificial pitch at Kenilworth Road. The explanation, according to David Powell, Luton's manager, is that his team's skills have been improved by the surface. So, since Queen's Park Rangers are the only other League team housing a synthetic pitch, Saturday's game at Loftus Road should have been thrilling with quality.

Far from it. As an advertisement for the game's most controversial product, it was like watching a trailer for Top of the Pops with the sound turned down: the performers were rushing around all over the place but were failing to get through to their audience.

"You would be shocked," Steve Jones said, "at the number of clubs who have asked me about synthetic pitches." Shocked indeed. Any of those enquirers who were watching here might now be thinking again.

A good game can often be measured by the number of goals scored. The score here was 1-1, but the game was not a success because neither Berron and Sealey had little to do on that score. Luton's shooting was so wayward that, of their half-dozen attempts at goal in the first half, not one was directly on target. Even the shot from Harford, which Wicks splendidly headed off the line, had to be deflected on course by Newell's knee.

Clearly missing the injured Spain, who will be out for some time, Luton looked almost likely to score after the interval but did so thanks to a moment's inspiration from Harford. Rising above McDonald, the Luton forward's header was goal-bound before Newell's sole in to add the finishing touch.

In the industrious Hill, who looked worth his after-match call-up to the England squad for Wednesday's game in Israel, and behind him Munnings, an England under-21 goalkeeper. It is a lesson in cover which Dalglish has yet to learn.

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Olsen gives spring Breakaway league is born at last

By Simon O'Hagan

Manchester United 3 West Bromwich 0

Saturday's match at Old Trafford mirrored the current state of the game rather neatly, consisting as it did of sporadic outbursts of football interspersed by longer periods of frozen inactivity. It was as if the players sensed they were disobeying the law of nature and decreasing that, whether the Football League like it or not, there will be a mid-season break every winter.

Come April, however, when the pressure on sides at the top and the bottom increases with every rearranging of the chairs, Manchester United will be glad they emerged from hibernation to stock up with another three points. As for West Bromwich Albion, they could be enduring a meteorological winter until the end of the season and beyond.

This was Albion's first match under the management of Ron Saunders and by replacing his goalkeeper and three of his midfield men he managed to add more interest to the team than any of his players new or old. As has been acknowledged all season, Albion have the ability but lack anybody with the confidence to show it. Their best spell was the opening quarter of an hour, when the shockwaves of Saunders's selection would have been most keenly felt, but thereafter they acquiesced.

Afterwards Saunders spoke solemnly of lesson learnt, which is that a manager in his position can United, sending a routine victory, if ever there was one, played well within themselves. In the absence of the suspended Robson and Whiteside most of the attacking work was left to Strachan, Olsen and Hughes, all low-centre-of-gravity players whose skills on the bony surface were too much for Albion's cumbersome defence.

It was no surprise that penalties should have accounted for United's 3-0 lead at half-time, on both occasions Colin Gibson being brought down as he burst into the area. Olsen, with his curious, ambling approach, got the first penalty in the top left-hand corner and the second in the top right. With a flourish and poise which Naylor, making his debut in the Albion goal, afterwards seemed to have rather enjoyed. He had not come across such class at Crewe, where he had been on loan.

With 20 minutes left and United coasting, Olsen scored his third, the first time he has achieved this feat at the club. Not for the first time this season, though, injuries dealt a blow to United's pleasure in victory. Hughes hobbled off at the end with a swollen ankle, but though he will miss Wales's visit to Saudi Arabia this week, he could be fit by next Saturday.

Adman, the United right-back, has injured knee ligaments and will probably be absent for a fortnight. MANCHESTER UNITED: C Turner, J Gibson, A Braham, P McGovern, J Strachan, P Gibson, K Hughes, F Buxton, G. M. Taylor, G. M. Taylor. WEST BROMWICH: S Naylor, J. H. Wood, D. S. Smith, M. Forster, C. Palmer, R. G. H. Jones, G. M. Taylor, G. Crooks. Referee: G. M. Tyson (Sunderland).

Wright lifts Aberdeen

By Stuart Jones

The Scottish League champions, Aberdeen, have again been made favourites at the start of the season, having won their 1-0 victory over Hibernian at Easter Road, their first win away from home since September (Hugh Taylor writes).

Although it was a dourly won victory, Aberdeen showed the determination of champions and their title hopes were bolstered by the fine display of yet another talented teenager, Paul Wright, who scored the winning goal and was the game's outstanding player.

Heart of Midlothian still lead the premier division and their 1-0 win over Celtic before a 45,000 crowd at Parkhead revealed that they are going to be difficult to topple.

Although Johnston, who opened the scoring for Celtic, returned to international form, the home attack failed to produce enough ideas to upset the well-organised Hearts defence and Robertson scored the equaliser to stretch his club's unbeaten record to 21.

Rangers showed that they have no fear of the leading clubs when they drew 1-1 with Dundee United at Tannadice. They may have lacked the finesse of Celtic opponents but they packed drive and determination into their play and, despite losing an early goal to Dodds, they fought back gallantly and equalised when McCosker scored from close range.

Two goals from Ray Stephen, Dundee's leading scorer, gave them a 2-1 victory over lacklustre St Mirren at Paisley. Spens scored for the home side

Breakaway league is born at last

By Hugh Taylor

The breakaway threatened for months by Scotland's leading clubs has at last become a reality and the country will have a new national football league next season. It will comprise two or three divisions, depending on the volume of applications to join the new organization; a premier division of 10 clubs, with promotion and relegation of one-up and one-down, has already been agreed.

The decision to split from the Scottish League was made at the weekend following a meeting of the nine dissident clubs, who are all full-time members of the present premier division, at the Scottish National League, which will be run from the Scottish Football Association headquarters in Glasgow, and is to be recognized by UEFA.

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Many officials still oppose a breakaway and Jack Stoddart, the league treasurer, whose partners Clydebank are the only premier division club not involved in the revolt, said: "The move will pose many problems and we at Clydebank still believe in the Scottish League and will not desert it."

But the Scottish football public is likely to feel relief, for they have long held the view that there were too many small clubs with too much power and that the league set-up was complicated.

The new organization says they have already had applications from 10 other Scottish clubs to join them. The action, which will lead to the destruction of the present structure of 38 clubs, was taken because the smaller clubs had refused to concede overwhelming voting power and new proposals for promotion and relegation to the powerful rebel league.

It was indicated yesterday that the only factor which could now stop the breakaway, a spokeswoman by the first and second division clubs at the press conference, was the meeting on March 12, was unlikely to happen.

Slipping into a trap of mediocrity

By Nicholas Harling

Wimbledon 0 Brighton 0

A game which produced neither a spectacle nor a result to encourage the promotion ambitions of either side was best summed up by a remark late on by a cynic. "Come on, ref," he shouted. "Stop spoiling the game - such as it is."

The hard Plough Lane ground which played havoc with what- ever attempts there were to display attacking football. What accentuated the mediocrity were the offside traps sprung by both sides and the tendency of the referee, David Axell, to overlook the advantage rule. If all contributed to a match of increasing tedium which ended as inconclusively as the discussion after it relating to the league's special rules on such unyielding surfaces.

The longer the game progressed, the more the players lost their footing. Wimbledon, with their, to put it politely "long ball game," probably suffered the most, the circumstances than Brighton, who, for all they have always been more creative. But in the end Brighton were hoisting the ball as high and as far as the home side. When in Rome, you have got to play as the Romans do." Chris Smith, their manager offered by way of explanation.

It was clearly not a policy that brought any great pleasure to Brighton. We're in the entertainment business," he said, "and does put a question mark against the entertainment value to have to play on a pitch like that."

Full back's two goals eliminate Stevenage

By Paul Newman

Southall are through to the semi-finals of the FA Vase thanks to Keith James, a full back with an eye for goal. James struck twice on Saturday to give Southall a 2-0 victory over Stevenage Borough, one of the favourites to win the competition, in front of a crowd of more than 1,000.

Southall, from the Vauxhall-Opel League second division south, took the lead after 23 minutes, when Stevenage failed to clear a corner and James shot home from 20 yards. After 64 minutes Tyler handled the ball in the Stevenage penalty area and James scored from the spot to take his tally for the season to 10. Tyler was sent off after the game for arguing with the referee on the way to the dressing rooms.

Warrington Towns (North West Counties League), watched by a crowd of more than 1,200, had a comfortable 3-1

When no news is good news

By Billy Binham

Billy Binham, the manager of Northern Ireland, yesterday blessed the weather which has left unscathed his plans for his side's first World Cup warm-up match against France in Paris on Wednesday.

"No news is to be good news," Binham said on the eve of the first Irish game since they confirmed their place in Mexico against England last November.

Leading scorers

First Division: G Lineker (Liverpool) 30; M Adams (Luton Town) 22 (19 for Wolves); K O'Connell (Sheff Wed) 17; M Walters (Sheff Wed) 17; J Adams (Sheff Wed) 17; R Whelan (Sheff Wed) 17; D Bould (Sheff Wed) 17; M Harford (Luton Town) 17.

JUDO McSorley shows inspired form

By Philip Nickson

Once again, the relative weakness in the throwing skills of Neil Eckersley, the Olympic bantamweight bronze medal winner, was revealed as he was forced to be satisfied with a consolation bronze medal at the Scots Scottish open championship at Meadowbank Stadium, Edinburgh, on Saturday.

He set out as he had planned, by working hard, to throw his opponents rather than relying, as usual, on his capable ground work, and he won his first two fights against Owen Lowry (England) and Jan Wangelin (Sweden) with a succession of good throws.

But his expected advance towards the final was checked by the Josef Fuchs of Austria, whom ironically Eckersley had arm-locked so comfortably in the world championships last year. How different was the story of the Martin McSorley. He had two good reasons for a subdued performance: a recent knee injury and a five-day-old marriage. But the Scottish light-middeweight, aged 21, was an inspired man.

None of his six opponents could find the answer to the barrage of uncompromising attacks that brought some spectacular results. His first three opponents were summarily bowled over by McSorley's exploding power and vicious defence, with blistering speed, while Ron Angus, the Canadian, fell to an admirable armlock manoeuvre. Only two Austrians, Peter Reiter, the former European silver medal winner, and Thomas Schuster, in the final, were able to take McSorley to full time, but he felled them both with throws which brought part-scores. The two leading international stars of the event, Peter Schuster (Austria), the Olympic and world middleweight champion and Robert Van de Walle, the European light-heavyweight champion, amiably despatched all opposition.

McSorley's opponent (under 60 kg): 1. J. Fuchs (Austria); 2. J. Schuster (Austria); 3. J. Schuster (Austria); 4. J. Schuster (Austria); 5. J. Schuster (Austria); 6. J. Schuster (Austria); 7. J. Schuster (Austria); 8. J. Schuster (Austria); 9. J. Schuster (Austria); 10. J. Schuster (Austria); 11. J. Schuster (Austria); 12. J. Schuster (Austria); 13. J. Schuster (Austria); 14. J. Schuster (Austria); 15. J. Schuster (Austria); 16. J. Schuster (Austria); 17. J. Schuster (Austria); 18. J. Schuster (Austria); 19. J. Schuster (Austria); 20. J. Schuster (Austria); 21. J. Schuster (Austria); 22. J. Schuster (Austria); 23. J. Schuster (Austria); 24. J. Schuster (Austria); 25. J. Schuster (Austria); 26. J. Schuster (Austria); 27. J. Schuster (Austria); 28. J. Schuster (Austria); 29. J. Schuster (Austria); 30. J. Schuster (Austria); 31. J. Schuster (Austria); 32. J. Schuster (Austria); 33. J. Schuster (Austria); 34. J. Schuster (Austria); 35. J. Schuster (Austria); 36. J. Schuster (Austria); 37. 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RACING

Dawn Run may get another crack at Diners' Club Chase

From our Irish Racing Correspondent, Dublin

Punchestown suffered three losses over the weekend. Firstly, Saturday's meeting was postponed until Monday and then abandoned, while yesterday the executive also had to point-to-point which would have been run inside the main track.

At first sight this would appear to rule out any prospect of Paddy Mullins getting another pre-Cheltenham race into his Gold Cup mare Dawn Run. However, a Racing Board spokesman revealed yesterday that discussions were taking place to transfer two of the Punchestown feature events, the Diners' Club Chase and the Ladbrokes National Trial, on to Wednesday's meeting at Leopardstown or Tipperary on Thursday should racing be possible there.

Paddy Mullins' wife, Maureen, said yesterday "if the Diners' Club sponsorship is run anywhere in Ireland in the course of the next ten days, we would be happy to send Dawn Run there."

There is, however, still a serious doubt about the prospect of racing at Leopardstown where there was two heavy night frosts over the weekend and where it would not have been possible to race on Saturday.

Maureen Mullins discounted the idea though that her husband would be unduly upset at not getting another piece of steeplechase experience into Dawn Run. She said, "You will remember when

Paddy was interviewed after Cheltenham last month that he then suggested he would not look for another pre-Gold Cup outing for her. That of course was before her owner, Charmian Hill, decided to change jockeys and to replace Tony with Jonjo O'Neill. This was the factor that prompted Paddy to decide to send Dawn Run for the Diners' Club Chase to give Jonjo an opportunity of renewing acquaintance with Dawn Run."

According to Maureen Mullins, Dawn Run has done particularly well in recent weeks and that thanks to their all-weather gallop it has been possible to keep her in steady work during the freeze-up. It is an indication, though, of how little rain Ireland has had since the beginning of the month that the all-weather gallop had to be watered at the weekend.

Mrs. Hill herself continues to play a part in the preparation for Cheltenham and last week paid one of her regular visits to the stable to ride her in work. At 65 years of age, Mrs. Hill must be one of the most redoubtable women owners in National Hunt racing.

She has had her share of bad falls since becoming the first woman to ride against men under rules both in Britain and Ireland. It is perhaps indicative of her approach to life that on the last occasion she had a holiday abroad, she and her doctor husband elected for a two-week hiking tour in the Himalayas.

Raymond suspended until end of May

Bruce Raymond, the British jockey, has been suspended until the end of the season by the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club following investigations by the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC). Eight other jockeys have received a similar ban until May 31 and two more have been banned until March 6.



Raymond, banned for rest of the Hong Kong season

Derek Kent, the former Season's best jockey, has received his temporary suspension lifted from the local trainer, Derek Cheung, has been barred until June 30. All those detained by the ICAC last Thursday have now been released on bail ranging from £4,000 to £20,000.

Michael Sandberg, the chairman of the jockey club, who flew from Australia for yesterday's emergency meeting, said that he welcomed the ICAC inquiry but thought it would be difficult to eradicate the problem.

"What has been happening is rather like a malignant growth - a cancer - and cancers frequently require surgery," he said. "Getting to the roots will not be easy."

No respite in sight

The arctic spell continues to cast its icy shadow over racing and the number of meetings held to the weather this season seems sure to top the 100 mark before the end of this week. Today's cards at Doncaster and Leicester were both called off yesterday and tomorrow's meetings at Kelso and Nottingham both fell by the wayside yesterday, bringing the total lost to 92.

David McHarg, the Kelso clerk of the course, who had been optimistic about staging tomorrow's card at one time last week, said: "There is snow on the course and in view of the hopeless weather forecast we

have decided to abandon the meeting. Stewards will inspect the course at Wetherby at 4.30 today to decide the fate of Wednesday's meeting.

The European team of Lester Piggott, Pat Eddery, Willie Carson and Yves Saint-Martin finished last of three with 21 points in the second round of the Ritz Club challenge trophy in Penang yesterday. The round was won by the expatriate team, which includes Ernie Johnson, at York last season. The third and final round will be staged in Hong Kong on Wednesday and Saturday.

Johnson Houghton is hoping for better year

By a Special Correspondent

By his own high standards, Fulke Johnson Houghton, the trainer, had an extremely disappointing season in 1985. His Woodway stables, based in the folds of the downs high above the Oxfordshire village of Blewbury, was ravaged by a virus which at one stage forced him to close down for two months.

The yard's total of 17 winners was well below normal, and the whole season was like a bad dream to the man who trained champions like Ribocco, Hot Grove, De Bourbon and Double Form.

Now, Johnson Houghton is anxious to wipe out the memory of that nightmare with a team of 65 horses free of any viruses. "Last year was totally frustrating. The virus hung around for so long that there were a lot of horses I just couldn't get on the course," he said.

Johnson Houghton is confident that he can saddle between 35 and 50 winners this season. "The horses have all wintered well and I could not be more pleased with them," he said.

But don't expect any early fireworks from the Blewbury trainer. As he explains: "I like to give my horses plenty of time, and we never get going properly until May. Like them to be flying at the Royal Ascot."

The 45-year-old trainer expects to have plenty of success with his fillies, and Fashada may be ready in time to put up a bold showing in the 1,000 Guineas. She is owned by the Aga Khan, who also has high hopes of Shakana. The trainer said, "Shakana had the virus badly, and I was only able to give her one race. She did very well, finishing second at Ascot, and I think she could be very useful indeed."

The Aga Khan has 31 horses in the stable, and another of his fillies to bear in mind in the

coming weeks is Shamylia, who is by Sir Ivor. "She has grown into a lovely filly and I know she has a lot of ability," said her handler.

A couple of the Aga's colts worth following are Nilambar and Kadial, Nilambar, a half-brother to Nasreen, was second at York last season. "He's a big sort and will get 1 1/2 miles. He could be a classic contender." Kadial, a half-brother to Kalim, has shown Johnson Houghton enough at home for him to say: "He could be the best of my colts. He will go for a one mile maiden and then go on from there."

Other promising three-year-olds are Floral Change, runner-up to Cosmos L'Etoile at the National on the final day of the season, Frangite, and Satsapar.

Myra, a daughter of Troy, was placed in each of her four efforts, but threw away winning chances by hanging. She should have little difficulty opening her account once she learns to keep a straight course.

Of the unraced brigade, the trainer picked out Kalandaryna, Good Natured, Dancesa Idaho, and the Roscoe Blake filly, Eye Sight, as likely winners this summer.

The older horses are spear-headed by Karamas, now aged five, who will reappear in either the Jockey Club Cup, which he won last season, or Newbury's John Porter Stakes.

An interesting four-year-old is the maiden, Paristina Victory, who did not run as a two-year-old and only appeared twice last year. Johnson Houghton says of this daughter of Troy: "I once thought she was up to group standard, but she was badly affected by the virus. I am sure she will win races, and her trip will be about 1 1/4 miles." The two-year-old, Souledadon, was singled out as a sharp early type.

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2 SECRETARIES Required for professional consultancy office in London. The senior (20-25) in £10,000 should have 10 years experience and the assistant £7,000 to £8,000. Both should have a good knowledge of French and be able to deal with clients. With 900

SMALL FRIENDLY WEST END SECRETARIES Required for professional consultancy office in London. The senior (20-25) in £10,000 should have 10 years experience and the assistant £7,000 to £8,000. Both should have a good knowledge of French and be able to deal with clients. With 900

PA/SEC £9,000 + FASHION Mature capable PA to assist on Chairman level for young expanding fashion/interior design Co. Lots of scope, challenge and variety, for an ambitious person. Call Louise Hammond on 602 3012 Staffline Rec Cons.

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AMERICAN LAW FIRM Specialising in Trademarks and Copyright seeks bright mature Secretary/Personal Assistant to help run small friendly office in the Holborn area. Competitive salary according to age and experience. Call Mr Stevenson 01-404 0456 (No Agencies)

MEDICAL SECRETARY Required for Consultant of busy private Histopathological Laboratory. To work as a team with two other experienced secretaries. Accurate and fast audio. Good telephone manner. Shorthand an advantage. Must enjoy hard work, be conscientious and have a sense of humour. Good salary negotiable. Four weeks annual holiday. 01-733 1288 ext 174

RESIDENTIAL LETTING Character body with humour, patience and determination needed to join small team running residential properties near Sloane Square. Secretarial skills are not of paramount importance. Common sense is everything negotiable. We want the right person to be happy. Telephone Mrs Maria Ripper 01-730 2144

SHORTHAND SECRETARY Looking for a new challenge? Want to work in friendly and informal atmosphere with Chartered Accountants who, despite everything, have kept their sense of humour. Accurate typing essential. Olivetti electronic typewriter. Salary £8,500+ Telephone Jeffrey Zinkin on 01-262 2641

PA TO FASHION MD Dynamic MD of a young and fast moving international fashion house needs a well spoken PA to back him up and stand in while he is frequently abroad. The essentials are dedication, keeping your cool and dealing with a wide range of people and issues at shows and by telephone. A superb opportunity for someone over 21 with drivers licence. Starting salary £8,000 + attractive fashion allowance. Reviewed after 3 months to £8,500. Apply in writing with CV to Miss Jones, Buzz Wear Ltd., Blenheim House, 137 Blenheim Crescent, London W11 2EQ.

ADMINISTRATOR/SENIOR SECRETARY To be key person in small professional organisation near Baker Street. Friendly atmosphere in unpretentious new building. Administrative/organising experience essential. Age from about 28. Salary from £8,300. For details and application form telephone: 01-486 5786 (No Agencies)

LETTINGS NEGOTIATOR/MANAGER Required to take over small but growing lettings department in South West London. Prospective applicant will ideally be aged 28-30 with 2 years relevant experience and a broad knowledge of all aspects of residential lettings. Basic salary £10,000 p.a. + generous commission + car allowance. Call Maggie Beatty on 01-785 2123

PROMOTION SECRETARY W. London Company dealing with advertising/entertainment seek experienced secretary with excellent presentation to attend meetings etc. Must have 50/80 skills. Mid 20's. £8,500 plus profit share. Please call Lucinda Cornell on: 01-370 1562 Monroe Rec. Cons.

SMATTERING OF LANGUAGES WITH WINE Rare opportunity to join well known Wine Co for a young secretary with an ability to use superb colloquial ability. Extensive travel arrangements for VIP's etc. Rusty shorthand £1250. 583 1034 MEREDITH SCOTT (Rec Cons)

BUSY ARCHITECT/DIRECTOR Of an expanding design company urgently requires a bright, enthusiastic PA secretary. Interesting and varied work, normal secretarial skills and wpm essential. Car driver. Salary negotiable. Please write with CV to: MACHIN DESIGN LTD, 4 Avenue Studios, Sydney Close, London SW3 6HW.

RECRUITMENT COUNCELLOR The success of our new West End office has necessitated an additional person to handle permanent business. The ideal applicant must have at least 6 months agency experience and be aged in their early 20's. Salary negotiable. Please phone Derek Last on 01 734 2921 Kompass Ltd 221-223 Oxford Street, W1.

Solicitors Knightsbridge Top Rates We require an efficient and personable audio secretary for our busy commercial practice in modern, well equipped and well located offices. Applicants should be aged 20-40 and have good secretarial skills (not necessarily shorthand) and be prepared to demonstrate initiative and enthusiasm. Consideration will be given to applicants not previous experienced in legal work. Top rates of pay and conditions, comparable to any in London. Reply to Mrs Sue Trehwellia 01-235 0222 for interview.

LIVELY AREA ORGANISER FOR R.N.L.I. A lively Area Organiser and Secretary is urgently wanted for the prestigious fund raising committee of this national charity in it's busy London headquarters. Excellent administrative and secretarial skills are needed and there will be some out of hours work. The job includes co-ordinating fund raising events such as the annual London Ball. Must be able to work under pressure at times and on own initiative. Please ring Gine Majendic on 01 428 5743.

AMERICAN LAW OFFICE Seeks senior partner's private secretary. £11,000. Modern offices, busy, brisk, efficient and friendly atmosphere in prime London West End location. Word processor knowledge desired or at least willingness to learn. L.V. 4 weeks holiday. Current secretary retiring but willing to stay on and teach if desired. Large airy own room at work station. Preferred starting date May 1st or earlier. Tel: 01-839 3226 Mrs. Dorothy Atkin

FILMS, TV, VIDEO, MUSIC. £10,000 PA to help start major project. Very busy. 60+ 110+ 01-960 6965 4516.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT £12,000 Charming Director seeks an Assistant with fluent French. Total involvement for those seeking a career. 60wpm typing. 282 Regent Street, London, W1. 81 486 2662

TOPS IN THE CITY INVESTMENT COMPANY £12,500 Senior Executive with a wide range of financial offers has an opportunity to a highly professional career secretary. Must be 24-28 years, excellent shorthand & wpm skills, from recruitment to highly confidential matters. From 17 years to client liaison. Beautiful office. Moorpark, April 30-3600.

GERMAN USEFUL £10,500 Highly popular dynamic international group MD in the personal office of a major company who will suit out experienced secretaries, travel arrangements, confidential and personal duties. Possibility here your own room. Smashing offers. Career for the ambitious with 110-60 shorthand. Free lunch and salary adv.

DIRECTORS' SECRETARIES TO £9,000 Although this is an advertising and PR agency, not every one is rushing about being creative! We have two vacancies for Directors' secretaries where first priority will be given to excellent shorthand and word processing skills. Additionally, one of the secretaries will work for the Chief Executive and another director. Will need all the discretion, diplomacy, and commitment that go with a post where highly confidential and personal matters are part of the day-to-day work.

IBM DISPLAYWRITER TRAINER £11,000 This key appointment has arisen due to rapid growth within this professional organisation, you will be based in Croydon, Surrey. You will need sound expertise on the IBM Displaywriter with experience up to Report Pack standard. Excellent company to work for along with career progression. Please contact Paula Howe on 01-439 4001 Office Systems Recruitment Services. 115 Shaftesbury Avenue WC2

LAUGHING ALL THE WAY TO THE BANK! SEC P.A. is offered up to £12,000 for skills, education and banking exp. commensurate with this salary (£120k). Must have sense of humour and basic of personality for the senior City Director. Age 25-30ish.

RECEPTIONIST/TELEPHONIST £8,000 pa Urgently required by City based firm of Solicitors for general telephonist receptionist duties. Essential qualities: Smart and confident Well spoken Punctual and reliable Experienced on Monarch switchboard Knowledge of Italian useful Hours 9.30-6.00 pm Please call Mrs Newman 01-236 6000 (no agencies)

THREE SENIOR SECRETARIES £9,000 pa plus fringe We are the European headquarters of an expanding, multinational computer software company and now require 3 senior secretarys to join our team spirited office. You will be 25+ and have a good, working knowledge of our computer systems and word processing. Good secretarial (100/50) and administrative/organisational skills required. Knowledge of European languages, although not essential, would be an advantage. Call Ray Sheath on 01-785 6972. (No agencies please)

TRAVELLING SECRETARY/PA Top level executive Secretary/PA to work on an international basis with periods away, frequently extending up to four weeks. Candidates should be organised, adaptable and energetic with excellent skills (120/60) and education to at least A level standard. No languages are required but a good sense of humour, charm, and impeccable grooming are essential. Top remuneration to someone who is prepared to work hard. Age 25-30. Apply with CV to Box C19, The Times, PO Box 484, Virginia Street, London E4.

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HORIZONS

A guide to career choice

Carve out a furniture future



Furniture-making is fashionable. Consumer interest in design, new technology and an emphasis on woodmanship are combining to open career opportunities...

holiday. Grants and bursaries had nearly paid for his education. Peter, who concentrated on furniture and lighting at Ravensbourne College of Art, took a year out at Sheffield University...

and the Royal College. Brenda Saunders took a year out and worked in Heals' domestic furniture department. She says: "I learnt what people want to buy - at college you have a blinkered sense of commercialism..."

Ann Hills looks at new interest in an old skill and how to plan for success

aims to help members in building links with industry and manufacturers, in marketing and sales.

"Are you sitting comfortably?" is a question Kanwal Sharma is asking pupils at Richard Cloudesley special school near the Barbican, where his seating system is being piloted.

Mr Sharma is optimistic. But after six years of academic education he regrets the lack of solid links with industry and the neglect of basic business-management skills.

Where should you begin in 1986? Choosing a relevant course is the first priority. Settings range from universities, polytechnics and other colleges of further education to manufacturers' training schools...

Further particulars can be obtained from the University Secretary of Stirling, Stirling FK9 4LA, Scotland. Informal enquiries may be made to Professor Juliet Cheetham, Director, Social Work Research Centre, University of Stirling, Stirling: Tel: 0786 7311. Ext 2134. Please quote reference (7). Closing date for applications 1 April 1986.

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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

WEBSTER UNIVERSITY IN EUROPE

Webster University of St. Louis, Missouri has established highly successful branches in Geneva, Vienna and Leiden. They offer American B.A., M.A., and M.B.A. degrees in management, computer studies, international relations and related fields...

Classes will start at the new Webster branch in London on October 27, 1986 and Webster is now recruiting to head this branch.

The ideal candidate will have a doctorate, will be a highly-motivated self-starter who wishes to build into a major institution a branch of an American university abroad...

A highly-competitive compensation package will be offered to the successful candidate. Start date is about September 1986.

Short resumes should be sent (no calls) before March 15, 1986 to both:

- Deans Duggan and George and Dr. Peel, Webster University, 478 East Lockwood, St. Louis, Missouri 63119 and Webster University, 37 Avenue de Bâle, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland.

UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING CENTRE FOR SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH

Applications are invited from well qualified social science graduates with substantial experience of applied social research. The person appointed will play a major role in planning, managing and conducting research into the effectiveness of social work...

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NUFFIELD COLLEGE Oxford OX1 1NF

The College intends to proceed to the election of an Official Fellow in Politics or Sociology tenable from 1 October 1986, or a later date to be arranged. Applications are invited from men and women whose interests lie within these subjects...

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL Chair of Pure Mathematics

Applications are invited for a Chair in the Department of Pure Mathematics. The other Chair in the Department is held by Professor C. C. Wolfe, F.R.S., currently holder of a SERC Research Fellowship from 1983 to 1988.

KING'S COLLEGE LONDON (KQC)

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in the Department of Linguistics and Applied Linguistics. The successful candidate will be expected to teach in the School of Environmental Sciences, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ, UK...

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY Research Assistant

Applications are invited for the above post, payable for 18 months from April 1986. The successful candidate will be expected to undertake market research into the regional demand for various forms of continuing education...

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH NEBR - FRY AWARDS 1986/87

The awarding Board of the University of Edinburgh has announced the NEBR - FRY Awards for 1986/87. The awards are made to students who have achieved a first class honours degree in any of the following subjects...

THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

DEPARTMENT OF CONTROL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONIC AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

As part of the Engineering and Technology Programme, the UGC has supported a major expansion of the Department of Control Engineering and the Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering at the University of Sheffield...

Substantial resources will be available to support this development: appropriate levels of additional staffing will be provided together with funds for new equipment. The University has recently acquired further modern apparatus...

NEW LECTURESHIPS

Applications are invited for four posts of Lectureship (full time) August 1986. Suitable areas of expertise include:

- Department of Control Engineering: signal processing, automatic manufacturing, real-time control, expert systems, robot technology. Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering: digital signal processing, VLSI techniques, real time image processing, techniques for sensing, instrumentation, education and control.

UNIVERSITY OF KENT AT CANTERBURY

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES Lecturer in English and American Literature

Applications are invited for a half-time Lectureship in English and American Literature from 1st October 1986. The successful candidate will be expected to teach in the School of English and American Literature...

UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

Applications are invited for an SERC funded Research Assistantship in Organic Chemistry. The successful candidate will be expected to work with Professor J. E. B. Robertson, FRS, and other members of the School of Environmental Sciences...

UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM CHAIR IN GEOLOGY

Applications are invited for the Chair in Geology. The successful candidate will be expected to teach in the School of Geology. The appointment will be made on 1 October 1986...

UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE DIRECTOR OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

Applications are invited for the newly established post of Director of Continuing Education. The successful candidate will be expected to undertake market research into the regional demand for various forms of continuing education...

UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Applications are invited for a post of Lecturer in Mechanical Engineering. The successful candidate will be expected to teach in the School of Mechanical Engineering...

Posts

SHIPLAKE COLLEGE BURSAR and CLERK TO THE GOVERNORS

The above position will become vacant on May 1st, 1986. The College, which has 342 boys, aged 13-18, is a member of G.B.A. and the current Bursar is I.S.B.A.

ROSSALL SCHOOL HEAD

The Headship will become vacant in September 1987 with the retirement of Dr. J. Sharp, who, like his predecessors, has been a member of H.M.C.

GERMAN INTENSIVE COURSE

German College, London. Beginners, O and A Level. Accredited by the Council for German Studies. Anglo-German Society.

SIBFORD SCHOOL offers A SIXTH FORM WITH A DIFFERENCE

One and two year courses are available for students who want a more career based course than 'A' Levels. We offer CPVE - the new post-16 qualification, a pre-Foundational Course in Art or access to the local Technical College for Business Studies and other B.Tec Courses while living in school as a boarder.

CLAYESMORE SCHOOL Dorset HEADSHIP

The Council of Clayesmore School invites applications for the position of Head following the appointment of Mr. M.P. Hawkins to St. Anne's, Wimborneur.

DAUNTSEY'S SCHOOL (Founded 1543)

West Lavington, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 4HE. H.M.C.: fully co-educational boarding and day 530 pupils aged 11-18. 190 in V.Ith form. Special link with Lavington (Comprehensive) School.

GIGGSWICK SCHOOL Co-educational Boarding - HMC HEAD OF BOYS' SPORT

For September, 1986. Responsible for Rugby & Cricket, P.E. & Sports. Applicants should be under 33, experienced in playing at high level, and suitably qualified.

NEW from Pitman

Executive secretarial training plus work experience at our Wimbledon College. Includes training in word and data processing and secretarial skills for OCA examinations.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD Research Officership in Nuclear Physics

The Department carries out research in nuclear physics and has 36 research officers. The successful candidate will be expected to work with Professor J. G. Layton, F.R.S., currently holder of a SERC Research Fellowship from 1983 to 1988.

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL Chair of Biochemistry

Applications are invited for a Chair of Biochemistry in the Department of Biochemistry. The successful candidate will be expected to teach in the School of Environmental Sciences, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ, UK...

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH History

The University of Edinburgh has announced the opening of applications for the Chair of History. The successful candidate will be expected to teach in the School of History...

BLACKHEATH SCHOOL OF ARTS

Invites applications for ONE YEAR FOUNDATION COURSE. Details from 21, Lisle Street, London EC2A 4DF.

UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING

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